

Mr Scanlon calls off strike after court accepts 'anonymous' £65,000

The national strike of engineering workers ended yesterday with a call for an immediate return to work by Mr Hugh Scanlon, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' leader, after a brief meeting with Mr Foot, Secretary of

State for Employment. Earlier, Sir John Donaldson, President of the National Industrial Relations Court, accepted through a barrister, an offer of £65,000 from an anonymous donor to pay compensation awards against the union. The court also ordered that assets of

the union sequestered on Monday should be returned to it. Some Conservative MPs were highly critical of the court's decision to accept the £65,000 from a donor. Mr Nicholas Winterton said: "It undermines the whole meaning of law in this country."

Seized assets restored to engineering union

by Paul Routledge, about Correspondent



The strike by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers ended yesterday after the national Industrial Relations Court's decision to accept £65,000 from an anonymous donor to bail the AUEW out of trouble.

The AUEW executive council decided the strike instructions not to go to 1,200,000 members when it heard that an unknown benefactor had successfully negotiated with the court through a lawyer to accept the money to end disruption of the national economy could be averted.

During the past few days approaches were made to various companies for contributions. Sir John Donaldson, President of the court, said the procedure as a novelty but the donation could be made over to sequestrators, appointed last week to seize money from the union if it was not early understood that that did not involve any surrender of the court's authority.

Mr Brian Neill, QC, made the proposal in an extraordinary courtroom scene just before Sir John was about to announce that the union must pay £65,000 compensation to Con-Mech Engineering. Volving, and about £4,000 to individuals awarded compensation by industrial tribunals, out of assets worth £305,000 sequestered by the sequestrators.

In line with its consistent refusal to recognize the court, the AUEW was not present or represented when Mr Neill rose to say that he had been instructed by an unnamed client to make available a sum of £65,000 which could be paid to the court or directly to Con-Mech and the other complainants.

The offer was being made, he said, solely with the intention of ending the disruption, that could follow an all-out stoppage by engineers. The AUEW, engineering section executive, on the advice of Mr Hugh Scanlon, the union's president, called such a strike on Tuesday.

The court's first response to the proposal was to require Sir John to take two days previously, but not taken up.

Mr Hugh Scanlon, left, the engineering workers' leader, outside the Department of Employment in London yesterday after the AUEW strike had been called off. Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, was wearing the South Wales badge of the National Union of Mineworkers.

Yesterday he questioned whether directing the sequestrators to accept the money would help to prevent disruption of the economy. However, after a short retirement, Sir John and his two colleagues said that provided it was understood that payment of the sum did not involve any surrender of the court's authority, "we can see no reason in principle why it may not be accepted."

The union leaders, aware of the court's decision at their offices in London, quickly agreed to tell Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, that they would call off the strike.

After a brief meeting with the minister, Mr Scanlon said: "The court, by whatever legalistic means are available to them, has accepted the offer of the anonymous donor. As a result of this the funds sequestered will be returned to the union and the money from the donor used to meet the claims for damages by the various applicants."

"Nobody is going to claim this as a victory, but it has certainly been the means of avoiding defeat and leads to the position which in the view of the executive preserves the policy of the union. We are happy now to instruct our members to call off the industrial action forthwith and resume normal working, including any work necessary to catch up with the backlog."

Dismissing any knowledge of the donor's identity, Mr Scanlon said: "Quite frankly I don't desire to know. It is better that it isn't known."

He appealed particularly to newspaper mechanics to resume normal working. Because of the strike, which mainly affected newspapers, motor manufacturing and shipbuilding, but not with an uneven response elsewhere, most national newspapers failed to appear yesterday and the London evening papers did not publish until late afternoon.

Although Mr Scanlon studiously avoided claiming a victory over the Industrial Court, the unexpected turn of events yesterday is already being hailed by left-wing militants in the union as a complete vindication of the hard-line policy of direct action.

The AUEW is certain to seize on the court's decision to accept the donation as supporting its contention that the court is a political institution, as many unions have argued all along.

The union has paid no financial penalty for its contempt of court. It is now being asked to pay a £4,000 fine for its contempt of court. Its assets were seized briefly, then returned, in large part, and now every penny has been given back.

Leading article, page 21
Business News, pages 25 and 31

Herr Brandt successor chooses his Cabinet

From Dan van der Vat, Bonn, May 8

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Finance Minister, who emerged as heir-apparent to the chancellorship 30 hours after the death of Herr Brandt, started work today on forming a Cabinet.

The announcement of Herr Brandt's resignation at midnight on Monday was followed by 24 hours of pandemonium in Bonn. Today has been the lull after the storm, though the party meetings continue and Herr Schmidt has begun to use his period in a political job he is universally expected to get.

The election of the new Chancellor will take place tomorrow week in the Bundestag. The constitution requires him to have an absolute majority of deputies. Since both his Social Democratic Party (SPD) and the junior partners in the ruling coalition, the Free Democrats (FDP) and the Christian Democrats (CDU), have signalled unanimous support for Herr Schmidt, the result is beyond doubt. The coalition has a majority of 46.

It is equally clear that, on the preceding day, Herr Walter Scheel, the Foreign Minister, chairman of the FDP and now acting Chancellor, will be elected to the federal presidency. His successor as FDP chairman and Foreign Minister is likely to be Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Interior Minister. Thus will the Brandt-Scheel coalition make way for an entirely different Schmidt-Genscher administration.

Meanwhile, the West German population continues to mull over the shock of Herr Brandt's abrupt resignation. Hundreds of thousands of people joined in demonstrations in his favour yesterday all over the country. Over 10,000 blocked the centre of Bonn to demand his return.

At the same time, Herr Brandt had resolved, alone, to resign by Sunday night. An all-out effort by ministerial party and coalition colleagues throughout Monday were met with a blank refusal to resign.

A Bonn reporter of the North German Radio got the scoop of a lifetime when he reported the first report of the resignation at midnight. It was confirmed within half an hour by a Government spokesman.

Before that, the atmosphere in the political hot-house of Bonn had become very tense. The Chancellor wept the city. Late on Monday afternoon, a rumour went round that a "top man" was about to resign over the discovery of an East German spy in the heart of the Chancellery.

Everybody assumed that Professor Horst Ehmke, the Minister of Technology, who had been head of the Chancellery in 1970 when the alleged spy (Herr Günter Guillaume) was employed, was about to resign. He appeared on television that night to deny it.

He has since confirmed that he twice offered to resign, but Herr Brandt had told him this would not be helpful. Herr Genscher, who as Minister of the Interior is responsible for the counter-intelligence service which should have "vetted" Herr Guillaume rather more thoroughly than it apparently did, also offered to resign and was refused.

The same evening, Herr Scheel abruptly called off a visit to Brussels the following morning without explanation. Though he is President of the EEC's Council of Ministers, he took the chair instead of Herr Brandt at a meeting of party leaders to discuss the spy scandal. Meanwhile, a last-minute effort by the rest of the Cabinet to persuade Herr Brandt to stay on was going on on the floor above, at the Chancellery.

But Herr Brandt, as his last executive act apart from the formalities of calling on President Heinrich Lübke, sent Herr Horst Grabert, his State Secretary, to Hamburg to seek out Dr Heinemann and hand over the resignation letter.

The President, who retires on June 30, was on a farewell tour of the city. He broke off his visit and returned to Bonn yesterday morning, receiving the Chancellor.

Even these limited concessions have aroused concern. About 100 women and children joined the hunger strike today outside the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem, now on its third day. This evening another demonstration was staged in the centre of the city, with crowds protesting against Israel's agreement to withdraw beyond the 1967 ceasefire line.

One of the major obstacles to Syrian-Israeli agreement is the failure to agree on the long-term future of the Golan. Syria insists that a disengagement agreement be linked to an undertaking by Israel to withdraw eventually from all occupied Arab territory.

But in the Knesset yesterday Mr Allon, the deputy Prime Minister, emphasised to critics that it was intended to keep most if not all of the Golan for strategic reasons. He renewed assurances to settlers on the Heights.

Strong evidence that Watergate break-in had Mr Mitchell's approval, says report to senators

Washington, May 8.—The "weight of the evidence" produced in Senate Watergate committee hearings last summer "clearly indicates that payments to the seven original Watergate defendants were intended to buy their silence," the committee staff has concluded.

In a draft report distributed to the seven members of the Senate panel, the committee staff also concluded that the "weight of the evidence tends to establish that Mr John Mitchell, former Attorney General, approved plans for the Watergate break-in and bugging, despite his denials."

The findings were contained in a 216-page staff report which included a recommendation that Congress create a permanent independent public attorney's office to probe and prosecute alleged wrongdoing within the executive branch.

Both the fact-finding portion of the report and the staff recommendations remain subject to debate and approval by the seven senators who serve on the committee.

The factual conclusions reached by the staff may well provoke heated debate within the committee, both as to their substance and to the potential threat posed to the fair trial rights of seven former White House and Nixon campaign officials indicted on March 1 on Watergate cover-up charges.

The conclusions are contained in a 170-page narrative review of events leading up to and following the break-in on June 17, 1972, at the Democratic national committee headquarters in the Watergate apartment complex.

In discussing the evidence regarding payments made to the original Watergate conspirators, the committee staff concluded that the money was intended to keep the defendants "silent as to the involvement of other persons in the Watergate break-in or other activities embarrassing to the White House."

Several of President Nixon's former top aides have insisted in Senate testimony that the payments were intended solely to provide legal fees and family support for the Watergate defendants.

The committee also received sharply conflicting testimony about the authorization for the Watergate break-in, but congressional "weight of the evidence" tended to support Mr Jeb Magruder's contention that Mr Mitchell had approved the burglary plan.

The staff said Mr Mitchell's approval of a large cash payment to G. Gordon Liddy, author of the break-in plan, during the first few days of April, 1972, "is consistent only with his (Mitchell's) approval of Liddy plan," as it was outlined

to him by Mr Magruder in Key Biscayne, Florida, on March 30, 1972.

In another finding, the staff saw "no legal justification" for the 1971 burglary of the office of Dr Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist in Los Angeles, despite the "national security" argument put forward by the White House.

The staff report said it is "difficult to accept" the claim of Mr John Ehrlichman, former presidential adviser, that the Ellsberg break-in was carried out without his "express knowledge and authorization."

Mr Ehrlichman, who faces trial on charges arising from the Ellsberg break-in, was in overall charge of the White House "plumbers" unit which carried out the burglary.

On another subject, the staff said it had found "no evidence to support" President Nixon's claim that he withdrew his original approval of a controversial domestic intelligence plan in 1970 that included probes for illegal wiretaps, mail interceptions and other activities.

The committee investigators did agree that this plan drawn up by Tom Huston, a former White House aide, "was never implemented."

—Washington Star-News.
Republican turns against Mr Nixon, page 5

Mixed Labour fortune in Scottish poll

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

With the bulk of results in the Scottish regional and district elections declared yesterday, a picture of triumph in the west and disappointment in the east emerged for the Labour Party.

In the nine regional councils, Labour won 172 seats, the Conservatives 115, the Scottish National Party 18 and the Liberals 11.

Although the country maintained its basic political alignment, the Labour results in Strathclyde, the most powerful of the newly shaped regions containing almost half the population of Scotland, was far more encouraging than the party had hoped. Labour won 71 of the 103 regional seats, and took an overwhelming majority of the Glasgow council ward.

The Conservative Party, which had made its biggest effort at a local election, took only about 20 of the regional seats. The Scottish National Party was second in 35 of the Glasgow wards, but missing by a narrow margin, but it failed to win anything.

In the east of Scotland, however, Labour's fortunes were reversed. The party failed narrowly to gain control of the Lothian region. The result was dramatic, for with seven West Lothian council seats to be decided, the socialists needed only five to achieve an overall majority of the new 49-seat authority. They took only four.

The Scottish National Party, too, had a narrow margin, but it failed to win anything. The SNP said it had won overall control of the Cumberland district and in East Kilbride had overtaken Labour as the biggest single party.

The Liberal Party had a disappointing performance. "Our difficulty has been having to fight very often against three or four other candidates, the party said yesterday. Mrs Grimond, wife of the Liberal MP for Orkney and Shetland, won a seat on the all-Independent Orkney Island authority.

New subsidy to hold down price of bread

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

The Government decided yesterday to hold the price of bread steady by increasing the subsidy. An announcement is expected in the Commons this afternoon.

That will keep the price of a large sliced and wrapped loaf at 14½p instead of the 16½p allowed by the Price Commission last week. The first 1p of this price difference was absorbed in March by a subsidy costing £21m a year.

The cost of absorbing the remaining 1p is estimated to be at least £51m a year. The Price Commission also allowed bakers to raise the price of a small loaf by 1p last week and this new subsidy will be used to absorb some of that rise as well.

The subsidy changes were disclosed to the industry yesterday by Mrs Williams, Secretary for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Defeat for Trudeau Government

Ottawa, May 8.—The Liberal Government of Mr. Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, was defeated in the House of Commons today, forcing the Government to resign and call a new election.—Reuter.

7p Financial Times
The price of the Financial Times is to go up by 1p, to 7p, from Monday.

Conservative MPs disturbed by nature of court settlement

by George Clark, Political Correspondent

Several Conservative MPs were highly critical yesterday of the way in which the dispute between the AUEW and the Industrial Relations Court had been settled. They said that the anonymous payment of money to avert a stoppage of work would be a precedent not to be followed by other unions.

The incident, they felt, would flood the other proceedings involving "uncooperative unions that might still come before the court before it was round up under the Industrial Union and Labour Relations Bill.

Sir Brandon Rhys-Williams, member for Kensington and Chelsea, said: "It is one more step down in the decline of the rule of law and is a bad precedent. If this happens once, some people will quickly realize that it can happen again and gain."

"Obviously MPs are glad, for the sake of British industry, that there is a settlement, but so one can be glad that it had to be achieved in this way. It is very different from the payment of 'protection money'."

Mr Nicholas Winterton, member for Middlesbrough, thought the court's decision was "appalling, disgraceful" and said he would question ministers in the Commons about it.

"It undermines the whole meaning of law in this country," he said. "It is buying peace in the short term at total disorder in the long term. At the moment the AUEW, the sequestrators, cap the law and it has paid it to do so."

Mr Dudley Smith, a former minister in the Department of Employment, said such a case was "regrettable" and furthermore it is "irresponsible. Any attempt to change the operation of the law by means other than through Parliament is to be deprecated."

Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone, the former Lord Chancellor, said before the settlement was announced: "The strike is a direct challenge to the rule of law. It is for the Government to stand up to it and persuade the men to go back."

Mr Scanlon's conduct is disgraceful. It means that the whole of the country is held up to ransom by the casting vote of a single man."

Later, in the ITN television programme First Report, Lord Hailsham said: "This man is going to wreck the whole trade union movement and the country if he is allowed to get away with it."

Neither Opposition leaders nor, according to the version of events given by the Government yesterday, Mr Wilson or other ministers knew the identity of the donor or donors, who indicated as early as last Thursday a willingness to put up the money to meet the court's requirements.

Apparently an intermediary was in touch with Mr Wilson's office late on Thursday to let him know that the move was being made.

It was emphasized yesterday, however, that there had been no contact between the Government and the court about the situation as it developed. Mr Wilson and his colleagues made it clear that it would be improper to interfere in the case.

Continued on page 2, col 6

Pay rise for shipyard workers

The basic pay for skilled shipyard workers will be £32 a week next year.

A two-stage pay deal agreed in London yesterday between the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and employers gives a £4 rise from this month, and a further £3.50 next May.

Semi-skilled workers will receive a £3.12 rise this month, and earnings for unskilled workers will go up by two payments of £2.75, to bring the rate next year to £25.50. Two extra days' holiday will also be given from January, bringing leave to four weeks a year.

'The Times'

The Times, in common with some other national newspapers, was not published yesterday because of the strike by members of the AUEW. We apologize to readers. News items and features that might otherwise have been missed are included in this issue.

Continued on page 2, col 6

Dr Kissinger takes Israel peace plan to Syria

From Paul Martin, Damascus, May 8

Dr Kissinger's Middle East mission entered a new phase today aimed at finding a detailed formula to link disengagement on the Syrian front to a fuller Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Fresh from his Cyprus summit meeting, the American Secretary of State thrust between Damascus and Jerusalem with maps and plans dealing with the Heights, occupied by Israel in the 1967 war.

The latest round of discussions focuses on Quneitra, on the fringe of Israel-occupied Golan. Dr Kissinger brought to Damascus a novel plan offering partial evacuation of Quneitra and the return of its Syrian population. United Nations control of the three hills commanding the town, and minor concessions in the Mount Hermon area.

Quneitra is important to Syrian eyes for political and emotional reasons. The Syrians had earlier indicated that its return could be regarded as the first expression of Israel's intent to withdraw from territory occupied in 1967. The Israeli plan is regarded here as a step in the right direction, but the Syrians have made it clear that there is still a long way to go. Dr Kissinger spent more than three hours discussing the plan with President Assad.

The hills commanding Quneitra have been a major stumbling block in the disengagement talks, and although Israel is willing to give control to United Nations forces, it insists on keeping three settlements west of the hills. This, according to well-placed Syrians, would weigh any goodwill afforded by the withdrawal.

American sources say that progress has been made on the question of buffer zones and United Nations peacekeeping forces. It is understood that the Israelis in their latest proposals agreed to a buffer zone on their side of the line. Hitherto they had refused this.

Syria is to call an Arab summit to counter general Arab support to offset any pressure from Quneitra as part of their buffer

President Sadat of Egypt for Syrian concessions. Dr Kissinger will fly to Saudi Arabia and to Cairo tomorrow after his overnight stop in Jerusalem. Sources close to the Secretary of State said he had clearly prepared himself for a long, exhausting haul.

Eric Marsden writes from Jerusalem: The proposals taken to Damascus by Dr Kissinger seem designed more to satisfy American demands for a concrete agreement than to gain Syrian agreement. It was admitted privately here that there was little hope that the terms would be accepted by President Assad, although according to reliable reports they offered to return the Rafid sector of the southern Golan as well as letting Syrian civilians return to Quneitra.

It was also proposed that the peaks of Mount Hermon taken last October would be handed over to United Nations control, while Israel kept other strategic points on the mountain. United Nations forces would also police Quneitra as part of their buffer

Even these limited concessions have aroused concern. About 100 women and children joined the hunger strike today outside the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem, now on its third day. This evening another demonstration was staged in the centre of the city, with crowds protesting against Israel's agreement to withdraw beyond the 1967 ceasefire line.

One of the major obstacles to Syrian-Israeli agreement is the failure to agree on the long-term future of the Golan. Syria insists that a disengagement agreement be linked to an undertaking by Israel to withdraw eventually from all occupied Arab territory.

But in the Knesset yesterday Mr Allon, the deputy Prime Minister, emphasised to critics that it was intended to keep most if not all of the Golan for strategic reasons. He renewed assurances to settlers on the Heights.

Golan fighting goes on, page 5

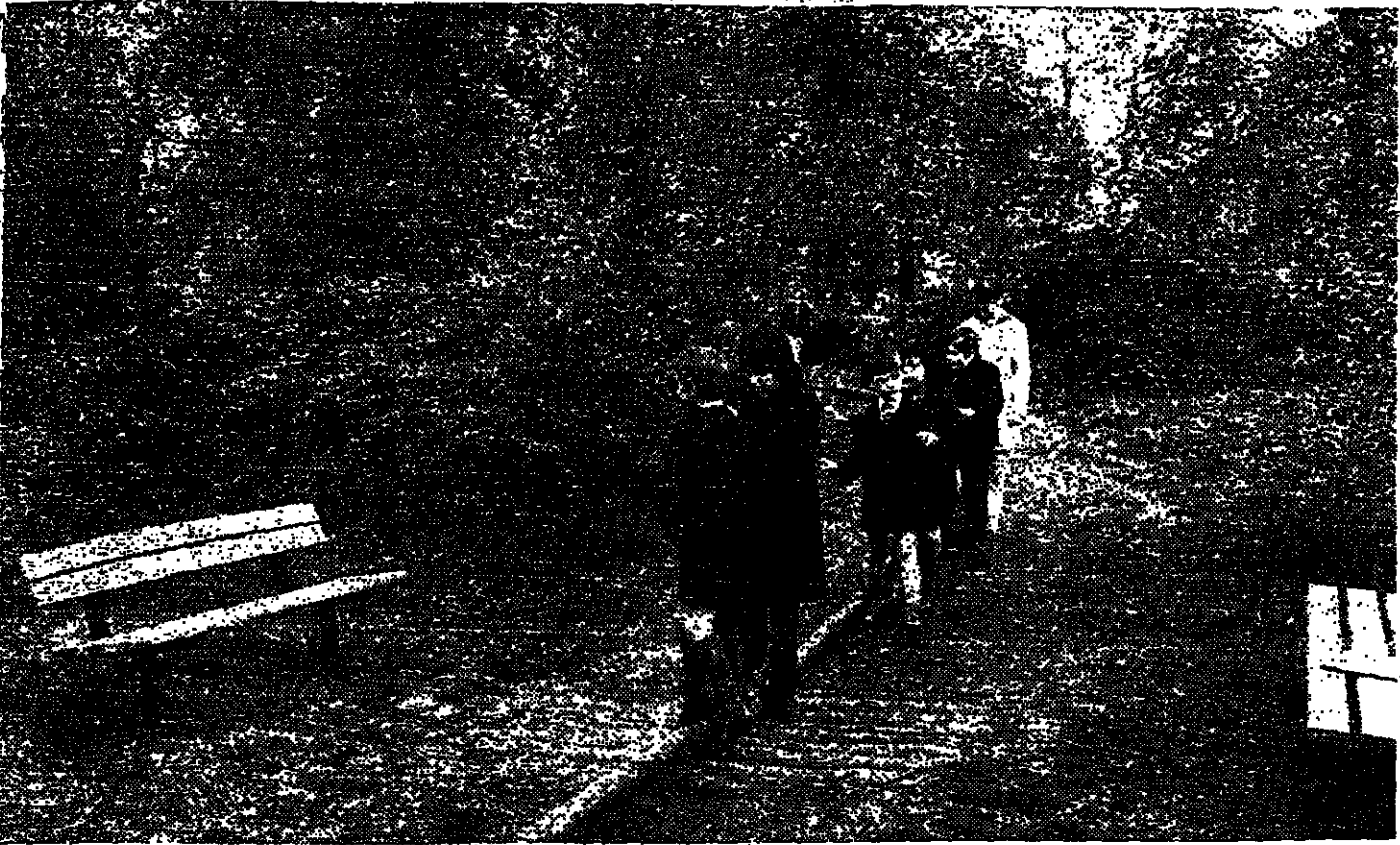
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HOME NEWS



Hand children from Linden Lodge School, Wimbledon, using a woodland walk for the blind now opened in Trent Park, Enfield, Middlesex. The walk has a low rail, which can be followed with a stick and changes of ground surface indicate a seat or items of interest, details of which are given on a braille plaque.

Government to finance exhaustive research into 'cycle of deprivation' in families

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Department of Health and Social Security is to finance research into the "cycle of deprivation". The programme, costing at least £500,000, will be administered by the Social Science Research Council and is expected to take seven years.

The project follows directly from the concern of Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Social Services in the late Conservative Government, at the way multiple deprivation appeared to be transmitted from generation to generation within the same family. A joint work-

ing party of department and council staff has refined the original concept beyond the level where the families themselves might be blamed, an aspect which has been severely criticised.

The research will examine how some people manage to break out of the cycle, as well as possible causes and extent of transmitted deprivation. It will also include action research to test specific ways of preventing or remedying deprivation by trying to "break into" the cycle.

The programme breaks with tradition in several ways. The

council has appointed an organizing group to administer the research, invited from universities and other institutes of higher education, rather than setting up its own research unit. It will try to tap research programmes as well as commissioning original work.

The emphasis will be on practical research aimed at influencing social policy rather than the production of one vast academic work at the end of the seven years.

The first publication, expected in June, will be a review of literature and research projects related to the "cycle of

deprivation". Critics of the theory itself are being asked to take part in the project.

The joint working party, which will supervise the programme, sees defining the causes as the most difficult part of the research. It suggests that applicants for grants on this aspect should study family influences, social class, education system and neighbourhoods. Studies on poverty, dependence on social services, race and housing and the degree to which they overlap will be encouraged under the heading of defining the extent of transmitted deprivation.

Athletes may be misled by anabolic steroids

By Ronald Kershaw

Physiology researchers at Leeds University are not convinced that the effects of the derivatives of the male sex hormone known as anabolic steroids help the performance of athletes although it acknowledges that taking steroids is now almost universal among weightlifters, discus throwers, shotputters and the like. Accordingly they are carrying out a study of the observable effects using volunteer student athletes.

A university official said that some students would be given anabolic steroids or harmless substitutes for periods of up to six weeks. Investigations would be carried out before, in the middle of and at the end of each treatment period. All students taking part would be under continuous medical supervision.

The spokesman said that a recent study of the effects of administering such drugs to rats carried out in the university's department of physiology showed no body weight increase and at higher doses weight was lost by male rats. He continued: "So the nature of the action for which athletes take the steroids is obscure."

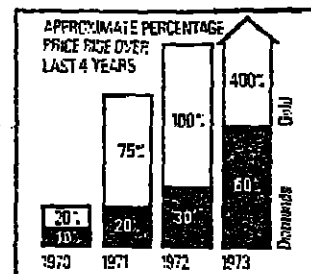
In the 1930s it was reported widely that the male hormone, testosterone, caused rats to gain weight and retain nitrogen, and that synthetic derivatives of the anabolic steroids also possessed this action. This early work on animals, however, does not stand up to a modern critical examination.

It is hoped that the study may also throw light on the broader problem of how the body regulates its energy balance. According to Professor Romaine Hervy, who is directing the research, anabolic and other steroids could be the "spanner" that fits the adjusting nut of a body's fatness regulator.

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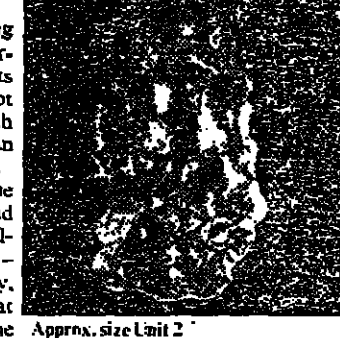
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Decision to drop reserve pension plan 'flat-footed and doctrinaire' Tory says

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The reserve pension scheme is to be dropped, Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced in the Commons on Tuesday. The scheme, due to be introduced next April under the Conservative Social Security Act 1973, would have provided earnings-related pensions on top of the basic state pension for workers not in recognized occupational schemes.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Opposition frontbench spokesman on social services, said yesterday: "We have learned that Labour would build on the foundations of the 1973 Act. The flat-footed, doctrinaire way in which the reserve scheme is to be abandoned is the worst kind of politics."

"All parties agree on the need for encouraging occupational pensions, but Mrs Castle is doing the reverse. Even on her own analysis it means people will not get benefit of the reserve pension for two or three years."

Mrs Castle assured the Commons that the basic pension provisions of the Act would take effect on April 6, next year, as planned. They would

include the change to fully earnings-related contributions, the winding up of the graduated pension scheme, and the preservation of occupational pension rights. But the provisions relating to the reserve pension scheme and arrangements for exemption from it would not be implemented, and an order giving effect to the Government's decision would be made soon.

The Government had decided to bring into operation only those parts of the Act which would not militate against its own long-term proposals. Those would be presented in a White Paper as soon as possible and be followed by legislation in the next session of Parliament.

Mrs Castle said: "I want to make it plain that we are in favour of, and wish to encourage the development of good occupational pension schemes which are highly valued by the people in them. It is not our purpose to place any obstacle in the path of such schemes."

Mrs Castle also recognized that people who would have been in the reserve scheme would lose benefits that would have accrued from it. But she said: "Those benefits would have been very small indeed for most people, and in general the loss

of two or three years of such rights would soon be overtaken by the more generous long-term provisions the Government would propose."

She pointed out that abolishing the reserve scheme would mean a saving in the compulsory contributions from employees and employers of 11 per cent and 21 per cent respectively from next April. Those contributions would have been paid in respect of about 30 per cent of the workforce - those not in recognized occupational schemes.

But Mrs Castle did not make it clear how the higher pensions to be paid from July and the later annual upratings would be financed. Full details, she said, would be presented to the Commons in due course, but employees were likely to pay 51 per cent of their earnings, the level to which graduated contributions will rise in August. The estimated contribution from employers would be about 81 per cent.

Mrs Castle said the net effect would be that the vast majority of employees would have no further contribution increase to finance the current uprating in April 1975. But increases in contributions were likely after that date.

Business News, page 25

Tuesday's news in brief

Police find stolen Vermeer in churchyard

The £2m Vermeer painting, "The Guitar Player", stolen two weeks ago from Kenwood House, Hampstead, was found by a police officer in the grave of St Bartholomew's Church, Smithfield. It had suffered from the damp and had a small silver cut from it, but was otherwise undamaged.

The painting, wrapped in a newspaper, was propped against a headstone. An informant had telephoned Scotland Yard to say where the painting was.

The Greater London Council, which owns the Kenwood gallery, had been prepared to pay £10,000 for information leading to the picture's recovery. The informant, detectives said, was prepared to trade information for the cost of a drink.

Katie Boyle is named by wife

Miss Katie Boyle, aged 44, the television personality was found by a London Divorce Court judge yesterday to have committed adultery with Mr Peter Jackson, editor of TV Times. Judge Noakes granted a decree nisi to Mrs Sheila Mary Jackson, of Rock Hill, Sydenham, London, because of the breakdown of her marriage.

Poll curb refused

The Home Office has rejected a request by Mr John Gilling, Labour MP for Newcastle under Lyme, that opinion polls should be banned during the 72 hours before a general election.

No holiday 'Standard' The Evening Standard, London, will no longer be published on Bank holidays, for economic reasons.

Second killing by freed woman

Mrs Margaret Wiggins, aged 57, who was certified insane and sent to Broadmoor for murdering her young son, repeated her crime 10 years after being released. It was stated at York Crown Court.

Mrs Wiggins, of Eborway, York, murdered her children, who she had killed her son, Colin, aged seven.

She pleaded not guilty to murdering Malana Thomas, aged four. She threw the girl into the river in the same way that she had killed her son, Colin, aged seven.

She pleaded not guilty to murdering Malana Thomas but guilty to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility. Her son, Roy, is in Broadmoor, serving a life sentence for murder.

Explosion plot charge

A further charge of conspiracy to cause explosions was made at Dewsbury Magistrates' Court, Yorkshire, against Judith Theresa Ward, aged 25, of Middlessex Road, Stockport, Cheshire, who is accused of murdering 12 people in the M62 coach bomb explosion in February. She was remanded in custody for another week.

Broadmoor fire

Five nurses were given treatment after being overcome by smoke when a fire broke out in a block at Broadmoor special hospital, Berkshire. Sixty patients left the building while the blaze was brought under control.

Royal railway trip

The Queen sat for 15 minutes in the driver's cab of a British Rail locomotive when she and the Duke of Edinburgh made a seven-hour inspection of the newly electrified route between Preston and Glasgow.

NUJ to set up inquiry for new code of conduct

By a Staff Reporter

The National Union of Journalists is to set up its own inquiry into investigative journalism with a view to bringing its code of conduct up to date.

The move follows a study by the union's national executive council of the Press Council's report on press behaviour in the Lambton affair. Its legal and ethics committee has been asked "to study and report on the morality of all aspects of investigative journalism, especially with regard to the use of sophisticated means of surveillance and invasion of privacy."

Mr Kenneth Morgan, the union's general secretary, said: "So far nobody on our side, on behalf of journalists, has laid down any firm guidance on the use particularly of electronic devices."

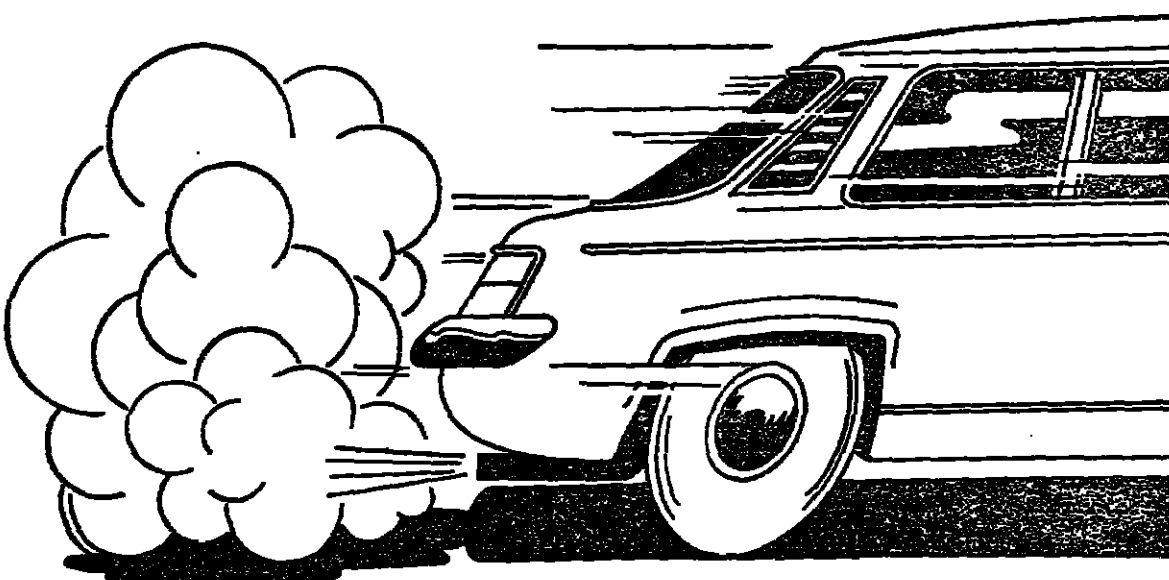
The code states that news, pictures and documents should be acquired by honest methods only, but Mr Morgan pointed out that it was written before anyone had invented small and inconspicuous bugging devices.

Defeated MP blames student vote

Dr Thomas Stottford, Conservative MP for Norwich, South, for four years until he was defeated by Labour by 637 votes in the general election, announced on Tuesday that he would not contest the seat again.

He blamed students at East Anglia University for his decision. "You can not get through to students who live an uncompromising life," he said. "This migratory body has the ability and power to decide the local MP, regardless of his reputation. I want to go to a seat that is not only less volatile but where the reputation of the member will count."

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Ask London Transport, British Rail, your travel agent or airline for details.



HOME NEWS

File for DPP next week, Milhinch court told

From Arthur Osman

Wolverhampton
Scotland Yard hopes to supply the director of Public Prosecutions with a file on its extensive inquiries in Wolverhampton district by the end of next week, it was stated yesterday.

Mr John Walker, for the director, said no papers had yet been delivered when he successfully applied for a remand in custody for seven days when Ronald Milhinch, aged 37, appeared at Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court for the third time on a total of five charges of criminal deception, theft and forgery.

Mr H. W. Maitland Coley, the stipendiary magistrate, said: "I shall not allow him to have bail. I am quite sure that every possible step is being taken to expedite further charges and get the matter on as soon as is possible."

No new charges were put to Mr Milhinch yesterday, although Der Chief Supt Alan Jones, who is leading the inquiry, confirmed again that further charges were expected.

Later, Mr John Lishman, Mr Milhinch's solicitor, said: "We might decide to apply to a judge in chambers for bail. It is the only thing left for us." Reporting restrictions have been lifted.

Mr Walker objecting to bail said: "The police believe their inquiries would be hindered if he was granted bail. It is believed that certain witnesses who have found enough courage to assist the police would find their courage deserting them if he was granted bail."

Mr Jones, questioned by Mr Lishman, declined to disclose the nature of an alleged charge of criminal deception which was first put to Mr Milhinch two weeks ago. Mr Lishman said: "There is nothing that has been said that would justify a further continued remand in custody and there is no real indication when this man will see an end to his incarceration."

In the charge office of Red Lion Street police station, the centre of the inquiry, Mr Milhinch, after being reminded, accepted a writ which is returnable at Manchester within 14 days. It was served by a local solicitor on behalf of J. C. B. Credit Ltd, a Manchester company, and claimed £2,819.30 on a Jensen car which Mr Milhinch had been buying.

Vicar found dead with burns

A vicar was found dead at his church yesterday with a can of petrol near his badly burned body. Foul play is not suspected.

The Rev Keith Shickleton, aged 52, married, was found by a delivery man who saw smoke coming from near St Luke's Church, Liverpool Street, Salford, Lancashire.

Action promised on problems of families living in tower blocks

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

The Department of the Environment is taking action to alleviate distress caused to families with young children living in tower flats. Mr F. C. Young, Minister for Housing and Construction, says in a letter to Sir George Young, Conservative MP for Acton, that the department is beginning a study to see how many families with young children are housed off the ground and to consider the feasibility of expecting all local housing authorities to house them in ground-floor dwellings.

The willingness of families to move will be taken into account, Mr F. C. Young says. "Considerable steps can be taken to compensate for the restrictions imposed on children by flat life. A further project will provide advice on the adaptations that could be made to unpopular estates to make them more acceptable or to change their use to new groups, for example, young single people."

Applications under the urban programme for additional assistance

...a minimizing some of the disadvantages of living on estates containing tower blocks will be considered.

Mr F. C. Young agrees that high-rise living is very unsatisfactory for families with children, especially children aged under five. But adult households with children can be quite content in flats, and a significant number even express a preference for such accommodation, he says.

This also includes the elderly, although careful design and management is required to ensure that the advantages of living off the ground—protection from noise, privacy and views—are not undermined by lift breakdowns and social isolation.

Sir George has again written to Mr F. C. Young welcoming the project to provide advice on adaptation of unpopular estates. But he doubts whether it will be feasible in London in the short term to run a scheme on the lines suggested to transfer families with young children out of tower blocks. The numbers involved are "substantial". "Further, it would seem that

the composition of accommodation in tower blocks is such that the use of the flats for adult households without children would result in substantial under-occupation", Sir George says.

If that is true generally, he adds, "that part of your project which relates to improving life on these estates for children will take on added significance."

Sir George wrote originally to Mr F. C. Young after doing a survey of an estate in his constituency. It disclosed wide dissatisfaction. Plea for action: Mr F. C. Young yesterday urged local authorities to do more to meet the housing needs of disabled people (our Social Services Correspondent writes). He said in a written answer in the Commons that he was not satisfied with the number of dwellings for disabled people that had been built to date.

A circular had been sent to English and Welsh authorities giving guidance on assessing needs. It emphasized that disabled people should have suitable housing to enable them to live in the community rather than in hospitals or residential homes.

Pictures of war that come closest to reality

By Philip Howard

In spite of the monotonous efforts of television, it is not easy to make the last war seem beautiful, tragic, noble or even coherent. Edward Ardizzone, Britain's premier official war artist, probably came closest to this in his sensitive drawings and paintings of what war was really about during the invasions of Sicily and Italy or on the Normandy beaches and the mopping-up operations in Germany.

An exhibition of his choicest pictures opened in the Imperial War Museum yesterday, and Mr Ardizzone took the opportunity to present to the museum the war diaries of notes and sketches that he kept to help him with his official work.

Mr Ardizzone, who went into the front line and occasionally in front of it armed not even with a paintbrush but only a pencil (he once had a revolver, but abandoned it as dangerous and unreliable), said, characteristically: "It was very naughty of me to keep a diary in a war zone, but I had to have written notes to remind me what to paint. I tried not to put down military secrets, but I sometimes failed." His diaries are sometimes grim, often grim, always perceptive. The Italian campaign sometimes reads and looks like a good wine and food guide to the country. On the other hand, in the front line near Salerno: "A Goya-esque scene of bodies of men, women and children—headless, armless, clothesless, some in coffins, others on stretchers. Appalling stench, many corpses blackening, no transport to take them away."

Book review, page 8

Many rubbish collections below 'Which?' standards

By a Staff Reporter

Although four people out of five seem to be satisfied with their rubbish collection, less than a third get the standard of service that the Consumer Association feels they should, according to a survey in the May issue of *Which?* published today.

Which? says the minimum standards local authorities should be required to meet are: free rubbish collection at least once a week; collection of rubbish from where it is normally stored and not just from the kerbside; provision of free rubbish containers; and collection of bulky rubbish, such as old refrigerators, television sets and sofas.

Just over 90 per cent of the 1,019 local authorities that took part in the survey collected rubbish at least once a week. Nearly a third, however, collected from the kerbside only. Two thirds of the 2,753 Consumer Association members in the survey said they still put their rubbish directly into a dustbin; only a quarter of those were given the dustbins by the council. Most of the other members used either plastic or paper sacks; more than half got their sacks and holders free from the council.

A third of local authorities accepted bulky refuse as part of their normal collection, although one in 10 said they made a charge. A special service for bulky refuse was provided by 93 per cent of local authorities, sometimes in addition to taking it on normal collection. But 13 per cent always charged for that service and

only 35 per cent never charged. When *Which?* asked how much, for example, it would have to have an old refrigerator collected, three quarters said there would be no charge, but a few merely said there would be no set charge. Perhaps it depends on how the driver was feeling. *Which?* wondered.

Many councils, however, have firm policies about gratuities, *Which?* found. Almost all the London boroughs in the survey said they forbade staff to solicit for tips at any time and one in three forbade staff even to accept tips. Most members of the association in London, however, felt it was necessary to offer tips to get efficient service and more than a quarter in the survey did tip.

Under the Civic Amenities Act local authorities are required to provide dumps that are reasonably accessible and open free of charge to the public at all reasonable times. *Which?* found that about one in six did not do so. A few councils, about one in 25, charged for accepting rubbish at their dumps. It is unlawful for a charge to be made for dumping household rubbish, *Which?* says.

Less than one member in 10 thought their councils did enough about recycling rubbish. *Which?* estimates that 90 per cent of rubbish is disposed of by tipping, the cheapest method. About 30 per cent is dealt with in tips that do not meet the Government's minimum standards. Only a very few imaginative councils use rubbish as a source of energy. Nottingham, for example, burns it to heat houses in the area.

Pig and beef producers complain to minister

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

Beef and pig producers gave Mr Peart, Minister of Agriculture, little respite yesterday outside as well as in the Commons. Their complaining dominated the discussions at the Farmers' Club meeting, at which the minister spoke before the agriculture debate in the House. He had agreed before the debate was tabled to give the customary address which ministers newly in office give to the House on time the start was brought forward.

The beef men said that they were being undercut by imports of manufacturing meat subsidized through the EEC system of compensatory payments. They pointed to the sharp rise in calf slaughterings now running at three times the rate of the previous two years.

At least one of the pig producers expressed gratitude for the temporary help given when the minister first came back from Brussels, but pointed out that the market had since gone back and pigs were again making a loss.

Mr Peart said that expansion was still government policy. He had invited the farmers' unions and other interests concerned to discuss the industry's long-term future with the Government. His officials had begun meetings with them last week. At present the Government had to work within a system that needed to be improved. Guaranteed prices for beef had been replaced by the EEC arrangements, which relied in part on government intervention in the market.

He did not see how he could explain to the British housewife that the Government was taking good beef off the market to force up the price she would have to pay for what was left. Therefore the Government had sought an alternative arrangement and, as a result of the Brussels settlement, total direct subsidies to British beef had been brought up to about £100m a year, a sum that was not available in other member states of the EEC.

He added later that he would like to see a return to a system of guaranteed prices for beef, but that would need agreement inside the Government in Westminster and in the EEC. In spite of high prices and intervention-buying, European beef producers were also in trouble.

Parliamentary report, page 16

Farmworkers protest over rise in rates

Farmworkers yesterday protested at large rate increases in rural areas where wages are low. They demanded immediate action to alleviate the situation. In an emergency resolution passed at the conference of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers at Clacton, Essex.

Miss Joan Maynard, of Thirsk, Yorkshire, a member of the Labour Party's national executive, said farmers had lower rating assessments than farmworkers and demanded full rates on agricultural and empty property.

Delegates will lobby MPs to day, seeking the abolition of tied farm cottages.

Plea to close development tax loopholes

By Our Planning Reporter

The Government is urged in the latest issue of *The Architects' Journal* to close two loopholes in its development tax incentives put forward in the recent Finance Bill.

In a leading article the journal points out that under the terms of the Bill no tax would be payable where there is no change of use. Since shops and offices are in the same class, as defined in the Bill, a developer could erect a vast office block on the site of a few sweet shops without having to pay any development tax.

Tax would not be payable where a new building does not represent an increase in cubic capacity of more than 10 per cent. That, the article says, would give developers a big incentive to tear down as many pre-war buildings as they can get their hands on and redevelop with lower ceiling heights and consequent larger floor areas.

Developers are disliked not only because they make too much money but because their often deplorable buildings have ruined so many of our townscapes, it says. "Unfortunately, if the Bill goes on to the statute book in its present form, destruction and rebuilding are likely to become even more widespread."

WEST GERMANY



Herr Brandt (right) talks to Herr Schmidt, his chosen successor as Chancellor.

Herr Schmidt may be the 'strong man' needed as Chancellor

From Our Own Correspondent

Bonn, May 8

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Finance Minister, who is expected to succeed Herr Brandt as Chancellor next week, looks very much like the strong man his party, his Government and his country needs in the present crisis.

Five years younger than Herr Brandt, Herr Schmidt at 55 is energetic, decisive and intolerant of fools. He probably has the sharpest brain in the Cabinet, and he certainly outstrips Herr Brandt in intellectual ability.

While he does not have the mystical popular appeal which brought Herr Brandt his famous victory in the 1972 elections, Herr Schmidt is far short of being 'unpopular' among the public.

On his day, he is one of the finest speakers in the country, and he can show considerable charm and wit as well as the toughness which is going to be his most useful quality in the coming months of governmental convalescence.

Herr Schmidt is not the kind of man who will put up with bickering within the Coalition or within the Social Democratic Party of which he is First Deputy Chairman.

He stands firmly on the right of the party and can be expected to give its left wing, including the "Juso" young socialist organization, short shrift. It was sniping from these elements which contributed considerably to the melancholy into which Herr Brandt sank in the last months of his tenure.

The next engagement was his call on the President and the formal leave-taking of the shaken members of his coalition Cabinet. Under the constitution, they lost their offices with him, but the President formally refused to say on as a caretaker administration pending the election of a new Chancellor. The four and a half years of the Brandt era were officially over.

Today it was revealed that Herr Brandt is to send a letter to all his party's one million members, to explain his astounding decision in more detail.

Until this letter becomes public, the mystery remains, and the gap in public knowledge of the story behind the most sensational resignation in recent political history has been eagerly filled by the rumour-mongers.

There is no shortage of these in Bonn, and they are having a field day. Herr Brandt as a professional reporter, I have never heard anything like them. Because I cannot confirm them, I cannot repeat them.

Suffice it to say that were they true, they would enable Herr Brandt to remain a deputy, still less chairman of the SPD, though there is absolutely no suggestion of criminal offences.

The decision to remain prominent in public life is a brave one and a great service to his party, which, with a crucial election coming on June 9, could well do without an emergency congress to elect a new chairman. Herr Brandt is entitled to remain chairman until next April.

But some West German newspapers today speculate with confidence that Herr Brandt has resigned to avoid being blackmailed by means of the information acquired by Herr Guillaume. The newspapers claim that the alleged spy had told his interrogators that unless he were sent

back to East Germany with an Achilles' heel of the Chancellor and his Government.

Herr Schmidt was born in Hamburg in December 1918, the son of a teacher. He was destined to become an army officer, but was thwarted by the war, which he served as a staff artillery officer in the eastern and western fronts. In 1945, he was in prisoner of war in Russia.

In 1949 he got a degree in politics and economics, joined the party in 1950, was chairman of the SPD Student Federation from 1948. From 1949-51 when he was elected, he worked for the Hamburg Government.

A federal political marked by brilliant success and his opponent's sense rather than the usual 'Brandt word'.

In 1967 he became a member of the Parliamentary Party of the party as a whole. He was made Defence Minister in 1968, filled with distinction in autumn, 1972, he was the Finance Minister. He has also discharged well.

Although Herr Schmidt is less popular within the party than Herr Brandt, he is more likely to salvage its times in the 1976 general election than Herr Brandt, who had been Chancellor.

Brandt denial of 'spy blackmail'

Continued from page 1

outgoing Chancellor immediately on his return, to give him his certificate of discharge from office.

Dear Mr Federal President, I take the political responsibility for negligence in connection with the Guillaume spy affair, and announce my resignation from the office of Federal Chancellor.

At the same time, I request that this resignation be accepted with effect immediately, and that my deputy, Federal Minister Scheel, be invested with the conduct of the Chancellor's affairs until my successor is elected.

With obedient greetings, Willy Brandt.

Politicians, diplomats and journalists streamed back to their offices in the early hours of yesterday, while several hundred innocent citizens who had heard the news on all-night radio programmes gathered outside the Chancellor's villa in the Bonn suburb of the Venusberg. They formed a torchlight procession and called for him to stay.

With daylight, the political convalescence began. By 10 am, it was known that the SPD had agreed to accept Herr Brandt's proposal that Herr Schmidt should succeed him. The FDP concurred shortly afterwards.

The breakneck speed of events continued unabated. Herr Brandt, extremely tense but stone-faced, went to a tumultuous emotional meeting of his parliamentary party in the Bundestag.

He received an ovation which almost turned into a riot, and accepted a huge bunch of roses. Tears were shed. After 20 years as Chancellor, having told his colleagues that he intended to stay on as party chairman and as a Bundestag deputy, he re-emerged, still apparently impassive but noticeably more relaxed.

The next engagement was his call on the President and the formal leave-taking of the shaken members of his coalition Cabinet. Under the constitution, they lost their offices with him, but the President formally refused to say on as a caretaker administration pending the election of a new Chancellor. The four and a half years of the Brandt era were officially over.

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back to East Germany with an Achilles' heel of the Chancellor and his Government.

The Government's announcement came last week, the would face trial and no exchanged for prisoners in German hands, as has so happened with espionage cases.

The speculators claim the alleged spy would be able to reveal details of astounding lessness in the handling of papers, including a letter President Nixon to Herr Brandt regarding the alleged one million members of the party, which Herr Brandt failed, if he even seriously tried, to do—this relation-

ship could rapidly become a political liability for the Chancellor and his Government.

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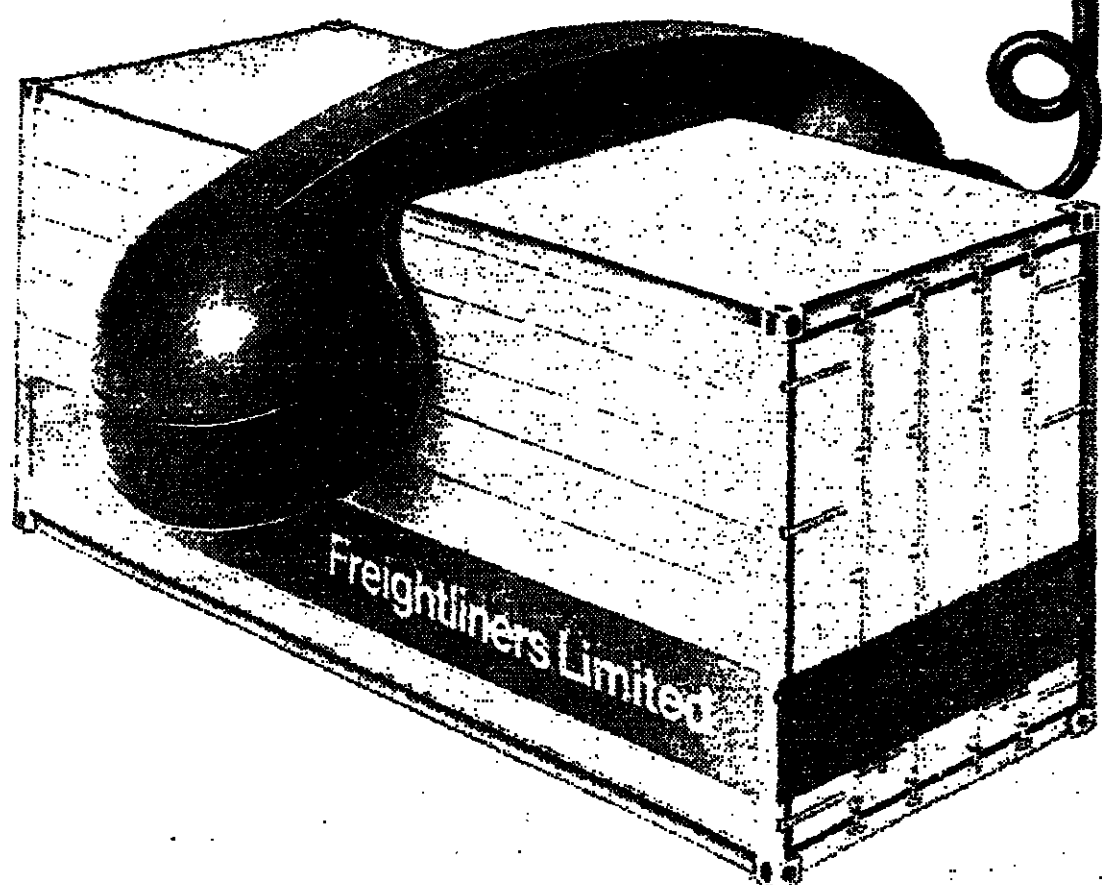
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25 years ago

From The Times of Monday, May 9, 1949

Aviation pioneer

From Our Aeronautical Correspondent

Rochester, Guildhall today Mr Hugh Oswald Short, a pioneer of British aviation, was made an honorary freeman of the Midway city with which the flying-boat firm of Short Brothers was associated from 1913 until it recently changed its name to Short Brothers and transferred its works to Belfast.

Attending the ceremony were Sir Fred McClean, who in 1908 gave Short's first order for an aeroplane, and Mr F. M. Short, the firm's first employee, described by Mr Short as the first aeronautical draughtsman in the world.

Brandt resignation is a blow to Europe

From Roger Barthoud

Brussels, May 8

The resignation of Herr Brandt as Chancellor of West Germany, is widely seen in Brussels as a further blow to the tottering edifice of European unity.

It comes after the energy crisis, the flooding of the French franc, the British Labour Government's demand for renegotiation of the terms of entry into the EEC, the uncertainties caused by President Pompidou's death and the body blow of the Italian Government's restriction of imports.

Herr Brandt was the dominant figure at the 1969 EEC conference of the Six at The Hague which paved the way for Britain's entry into the EEC. He dominated the ill-starred EEC summit of the Nine last December in Copenhagen.

He alone of the "Big Three" seemed to appreciate the need for the Nine to stand together in the face of the Arab oil producers' cartel. He alone seemed to have the moral authority to provide leadership, although congenitally reluctant to wield it.

Herr Helmut Schmidt, his likely successor, arouses mixed emotions in Brussels. He is even more keenly aware of the Atlantic connexion. But he

appreciates power and realises how essential it is to a united Europe.

His predilection for a rather than words could be a stimulant, just as his will to stand up to the Fr will be welcomed if diplomatically done.

There is concern in Brussels at the possibility of Herr Brandt's resignation being a failure of the party political leader.

Herr Brandt could in people to follow him, but constitutionally incapable of ordering them to do so.

Why Herr Brandt bowed page 20; leading article, p. 21

WEST EUROPE

M Giscard d'Estaing tipped to win a very close race as voters come back to reality

in Charles de Gaulle's 1958 election, May 8, political necessity makes the difference. When he is at stake, principles have to take second place. The framers of the constitution of the Fifth Republic, in their wisdom, instituted a two-ballot system precisely to give French voters a chance to vote first with their heads and second with their hearts.

That is what they are expected to do on May 19. "It is to be seen now who will be devalued. Chaban stock, Giscard on the rise, or will it be Mitterrand as a 'sensible' investment?" M. Bert Escarpit puts it cynically in *Le Monde* today.

Having concentrated on the rural market for weeks, the voters have rather lost sight of money market. The fall of franc during the campaign brings them back to harsh realities. That is where M. Giscard d'Estaing is better placed in the home stretch of presidential elections than Mitterrand, especially when outcome, as all the polls affirm, is certain to be a very close run thing.

The latest carried out by the *France-Soir* today shows that the Finance Minister will win against the candidate the left by a short head—

51 per cent against 49, or a mere half million votes, out of 25 million voters.

It also shows that the recruitment of both camps, in the words of M. Pisani, the former minister of General de Gaulle, who has decided to cast his lot with M. Mitterrand depends as much on sociological criteria as on political ones. "There is the right and the left, just as there is working class France and bourgeois France."

M. Giscard d'Estaing, the poll shows, carries with him a majority of the older age groups, of the professional and higher managerial groups, and the rural areas.

It comes as no surprise that M. Mitterrand's main strength is drawn from the younger age groups, the workers, the large towns and the Paris region—in other words from those sections of the voting population that can more easily afford to gamble on the future, because they have rather less to lose.

But everything will turn on a very narrow margin. In the scramble for the two or three per cent which will tip the scales, the Gaullist voters, organized by M. Chaban-Delmas's defeat in the first ballot, are naturally the object of the most pressing solicitations.

M. Marchais, the Communist leader, blows the trumpet of

national independence and grandeur with a vengeance and feigns to discover beyond the bitter battles "things between Gaullists and Communists" which are not tied to electoral contingencies but lie much deeper, the aspiration "of our united people after a more just, more fraternal society."

In the words of M. Chaban-Delmas, the political bureau of the Communist Party today even goes so far as to describe yesterday's visit of the Soviet Ambassador to M. Giscard d'Estaing as "all the more regrettable for affording a pretext to speculation showing this as a step in favour of the candidature of the right."

M. Mitterrand himself in a radio interview at the crack of dawn today asked: "How one can have at one and the same time the foreign policy of M. Lecanuet and that of M. Jobert? Who can forecast the attitude of the traditional Gaullists? They are asked to vote for the candidate who will destroy them; for the man who took the responsibility of overthrowing General de Gaulle in 1969. Gaullism aimed at being something other than this right wing. There will be enough Gaullists left to say so."

There would appear to be precious few

Marias are cleared of pornography charges

From Jose Shercliff
Lisbon, May 8

The women's liberation movement achieved progress in Portugal when three women authors were acquitted of pornography charges in a Lisbon court yesterday.

Maria Isabel Barreno, Maria Teresa Horta and Maria Velho da Costa were put on trial last year for jointly publishing in 1972 the *New Portuguese Letters*, which the police had seized considering it offensive to public morality.

According to the authors the book merely exposed the sad fate of women in Portugal in a series of letters, essays and poems that intermingled political criticism with feminist ideals and erotic imagery.

The book was based on the seventeenth-century *Letters of a Portuguese Nun*, allegedly written by Sister Mariana Alcoforado, while incarcerated in a convent in Beja, to a French officer stationed in the city.

The trial opened in July last year. The crowning moment came last month when the public prosecutor himself asked for the acquittal of the three authors.

The "three Marias", who are all in their middle thirties, married and mothers, had admitted from the beginning that their work was erotic but denied any pornographic intent.

The publicity caused by the case has promoted the translation of the *New Portuguese Letters* into a number of languages, including English and French.

There were lively scenes with women chanting in the crowded court as the judge acquitted the three defendants. He found that the book was not pornographic but "lyrical, cruel, dramatic and pungent". It was "a real work of art".

The judge congratulated the publisher for rendering a public service by producing it.

Senhora Horta and Senhora Barreno said that they would now start a women's liberation movement in Portugal.

OVERSEAS



Senator Wallace and his wife at a victory rally in Montgomery after the primaries.

Republican leader turns against Mr Nixon after hearing tapes

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, May 8

Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, a former contender for the United States presidency, said last night that he expected Mr Nixon to resign if he was impeached by the House of Representatives. He would do so, according to Mr Goldwater, rather than drag the country through two or three months of televised terror—the trial before the Senate.

The senator also said that the people of Arizona were three to one against the President because "they just don't like him". Arizona delivered one of the strongest votes for Mr Nixon in 1972 and he went there last week for a Republican rally and was well received.

If this defection were not enough, Senator Hugh Scott, minority leader in the Senate and a hitherto unfaltering supporter of the President, has denounced the transcripts of the White House tapes. Before he read them, he had said that they confirmed his earlier protestations of Mr Nixon's innocence.

Now he says: "They are a shabby, disgusting, immoral performance. . . . I am enormously distressed that there is not enough of moral indignation that would have been expected under the circumstances."

Senator Scott is particularly indignant because he feels that he has been used as a "patsy" by the President.

He was shown scraps of transcript last year, carefully edited and chosen morsels, and marched out of the White House to proclaim that the transcripts proved both that Mr Nixon was guiltless and Mr John Dean a liar. The Senator kept repeating this claim, despite the lack of faith in the White House shown by more cautious Republicans.

He declared: "I have found nothing which would indicate any guilt of a nature that would be impeachable." Now he has read the transcripts; and yesterday he issued this careful statement: "I will not take a position supporting any form of immorality or criminality, as the transcripts indicate."

This would seem to be the end of the road for the Republican leader of the Senate. Once

again the White House, by deceiving and using its supporters for short-term political ends, has lost an important ally.

The senator said a few weeks ago: "I'll be damned if I'll be a patsy for anyone." Now that he has discovered that he has been just that for a year past, his reaction is (expletive deleted).

Other leading Republicans have reacted in much the same way, although with less sense of personal outrage. Mr John Rhodes, the party leader in the House of Representatives, said he agreed completely with Senator Scott, and several members of the House Judiciary committee, which is preparing for the possible impeachment, have expressed their outrage.

The impeachment inquiry moves into its active phase tomorrow. The House Judiciary committee will then start hearing the evidence accumulated by its staff. There will be a brief, public opening ceremony and then the committee will go into executive session to listen to tapes and other evidence which must be kept confidential to protect the Watergate defendants.

The contents of the letter were not disclosed, but political sources said it discussed recent Middle East developments and probably gave details of Tuesday's meeting in Cyprus between Dr Kissinger and Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Mr Gromyko visited Damascus earlier this week and held talks with President Assad and other Syrian officials.

Mr Mahmoud Riad, the Arab League Secretary General met Mr Abdul Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister and said later that Syria had not asked for an Arab summit to discuss the situation. Mr Riad said that if such a request was made by Syria, the matter should be taken up by the league.—Reuter.

Beirut, May 8.—Lebanese and Israeli forces exchanged artillery fire in south Lebanon today. The Israelis shelled Lebanese Army posts near the town of Chabaa.

The Lebanese Army returned the fire, shelling Israeli forces on Tel Shabar and Tel Saddana Heights. The Exchange lasted about 35 minutes during which traffic between Hasbaya and Chabaa was interrupted.—Reuter.

Spanish group behind abduction of banker

Paris, May 8.—Police were today hunting for members of a Spanish anarchist group which claimed responsibility for a kidnapping of Señor Angel Itasur Suarez, a Spanish banker, here last Friday.

No word has been received in Señor Suarez since his disappearance. The French authorities at first thought Basque militants might have been behind the kidnapping, but an anti-Franco organization, called the Internationalist Revolutionary Action Group, claimed responsibility yesterday.

It listed several demands, including the freeing of political prisoners in Spain and the publication by Spanish newspapers of anarchist texts, in exchange for Señor Suarez. The group specifically demanded the release of Señor Santiago Sole Amigo, a member of the Iberian Liberation movement, who is said to be in a Spanish prison.

The anarchist organization denounced its role in the kidnapping in a letter yesterday.

Sir Christopher to stay on European Commission

From David Spanier
Brussels, May 8

Despite many invitations to return to the Conservative front bench in Westminster, Sir Christopher Soames has decided to stay at his post in Brussels as vice-president of the European Commission. The decision was a difficult one.

Sir Christopher has been under strong temptation, it appears, to return to London. Leaders of the Conservative Party have been pressing him to resign his post and return home.

With the Conservative Opposition in some disarray after defeat in the election, party leaders evidently believe that Sir Christopher's presence would not only be a powerful boost to morale, but more important, strengthen the party in fighting the next election. There has been, in consequence, much speculation of a safe seat being found for him.

Sir Christopher's view is that it would be wrong at this time to desert his post in Brussels. He believes that his primary

task is to help bring the renegotiation of the terms of British entry, launched by the Labour Government, to a successful conclusion.

How long this will take is a matter of speculation, but it would seem unlikely to be completed before the end of this year, and might well take longer. Accordingly, Sir Christopher has decided to see this through, although he has never disguised his personal ambition to return to British politics ever since he was appointed British Ambassador in Paris by Mr Wilson in 1969.

Even if he remains in Brussels next year Sir Christopher is unlikely to succeed to the post of President of the Commission. Although it is, in theory, Britain's "turn" for this post in 1975 the present somewhat strained state of Britain's relations with the European Community would seem to indicate either M. Ortolini serving as President for a further year, or another nationality taking the post.

Heart operation on girl succeeds

Bordeaux, France, May 8.—A Lancashire girl aged 7, suffering from a rare heart condition, will be able to return home soon after a successful operation here, her doctors said today.

Wendy Howard, of Widnes, underwent surgery at Bordeaux's main hospital for a heart malformation on April 23.

Governor Wallace holds Alabama

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, May 8

Governor George Wallace of Alabama won a sweeping victory in the Democratic primary election for the Governorship yesterday. In Ohio Senator Howard Metzenbaum was soundly defeated in his bid for the Democratic nomination for reelection in November.

Mr Wallace had only taken opposition, and won by more than two to one. His reelection to the Governorship in November will be no more than a formality, as Alabama is virtually a one-party state, and he will be able to concentrate on his plans for the Presidential campaign in 1976.

Ohio is nothing of the sort, and the victor in the Democratic primary, Mr John Glenn, the first American to go into space orbit, would normally expect to have a fight on his hands in November. However, he won a convincing victory and is now the favourite for November.

This is the primary season and one of the most important races is in Arkansas, where Senator William Fulbright is being challenged by the Governor, Mr Dale Bumpers.

Governor wins the Democratic nomination Mr Fulbright's position as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, one of that body's most important posts, will change hands. Arkansas votes on May 28.

Cambridge, May 8.—The Prince of Wales will visit Australia in September, Mr Whitlam, the Prime Minister, said here today. The Prince will open an Anglo-Australian 150in optical telescope at Siding Springs in New South Wales.—Reuter.

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Over 1½ million owners have proved for themselves that the Fiat 128 offers outstanding reliability, quality, value-for-money, engineering and safety.

These are the features that have won the Fiat 128 no less than seven car-of-the-year awards—more than any other car—and make it the most successful 1100 cc car of the past five years. And it is these same features, combined with low running cost, that make the Fiat 128 such an intelligent choice for today's motorists.

More economy Quite apart from its superb fuel economy—38 mpg overall consumption (*The Times*, Jan 3)—the Fiat 128 brings you low running costs because it is mechanically reliable, and its advanced design features ensure high strength, excellent resistance to impact, and full passenger safety.

More value At just over £1,000, you get a well-equipped, spacious and modern family car. With room for five to travel in comfort, and a big 13 cu.ft. boot. Plus such refinements as full carpeting, cloth upholstery, reclining front seats, alternator, servo-assisted brakes with discs at the front, and radial-ply tyres.

More performance The Fiat 128 gives you full value in terms of performance. Front wheel drive, and wide track, ensure you get superb roadholding. And its small sporty overhead camshaft engine gets you from 0–50 in just 10.4 seconds, and gives you a top-speed capability of over 85 mph.

Test drive the Fiat 128 now, at any one of the 350 Fiat dealers nationwide.

2-door saloon £1,099.71. FROM
4-door saloon (illustrated), £1,151.15.

Prices include car tax and VAT, but exclude seat belts, delivery charges and number plates.

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Ask your Fiat dealer for full information about the anti-rust programme.

Available now **FIAT 128** at your Fiat dealer

OVERSEAS

Million stranded as Indian railwaymen respond to strike call

Delhi, May 8.—More than one million commuters were stranded in Bombay today by a nation-wide strike of railwaymen that also hit Delhi and Calcutta, and derailed passenger and goods trains throughout the country.

The stoppage was called to support demands of higher wages. The Government threatened to suspend all striking railwaymen if they did not return to work by tomorrow morning.

Mr Lalit Mishra, the Minister of Railways, said that other workers would be recruited in their place.

Hundreds of railwaymen and trade unionists were arrested as the strike began, bringing the total of arrests to well over 6,000 since last Thursday.

There were conflicting reports of the effectiveness of the stoppage. Mr Mohinder Nath Bhatia, the chairman of the Railway Board, said that only 8 per cent of the network's 1,500,000 workers had stayed away and that the strike was "marginal". But the action committee of militant unions said that the response to the strike call was "magnificent".

There was uproar in the two Houses of Parliament today as Opposition members tried to initiate emergency debates on the strike, and failed.

Opposition and Congress Party members shouted at each other for more than an hour. In the end, a number of Opposition members walked out.

The Calcutta Tea Traders' Association expressed concern over the impact of the strike on the movement of tea for export.

Most tea is brought by rail from the estate. Although it is an important earner of foreign exchange it does not have priority as an essential item which has to be kept moving.

The National Federation of Indian Railwaymen, which supports the ruling Congress Party, asserted that most of its 450,000 members had reported for work.

According to the United News of India news agency the railways, which normally run nearly 11,000 goods and passenger trains every day, had been severely derailed by the strike.

The Press Trust of India said that many trains were running late and commuter services round Delhi were paralysed.

Mr Berry said that the suburban services in Bombay had come to a virtual halt leaving more than a million people stranded. However 65 per cent of goods trains carrying essential supplies such as petrol, coal and food and 70 per cent of passenger trains were operating.

He admitted there were troubles at some key centres and marshalling yards at Koda in western India and Mughalpur, near Benares in the north. It was these pockets that held up a number of trains.

In Calcutta, suburban trains of the Eastern Railway were seriously affected by acts of sabotage and intimidation of loyal workers, a railway spokesman said.—Reuters.

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Princess Margaret with the Duchess of Windsor in her suite at the Waldorf Astoria hotel, New York. The Princess called on Tuesday before attending a performance by the Royal Ballet.

US teams dominate world bridge final

From a Bridge Correspondent Las Palmas, May 8

The final of the world mixed teams bridge championships here will be dominated by the United States' five American teams qualified and will be joined by one team each from Switzerland, Italy and Sweden.

The qualifiers are: Pool 1: Moré (US), 122 pts; Capelletti (US), 115; Trad (Sweden), 110; Nygren (Sweden), 110.

Pool 2: Von Zedwitz (US), 122 pts; Stayman (US), 113; Mondolfo (Italy), 113; Kennedy (US), 104.

The Kennedy team took fourth place after a four-way tie in which the British team captained by C. H. Fox, Campos of India, and Runeberg of Finland were involved. The Kennedy team qualified on the best quotient score which was resolved to three decimal places.

At a meeting of the European Bridge League executive the decision to hold this year's European championships in Tel Aviv was confirmed.

Our Athletics Correspondent writes: A complete break of sporting contacts with Kenya would be a blow to British athletics promoters hoping to bring to this country the world's best middle and long distance runners. At the Commonwealth Games in Christchurch, New Zealand, last January, the Kenyan athletes won 14 medals.

The outstanding Kenyan Ben Jipcho, has since turned professional, but amateur stars such as John Kipkurgat and Michael Boit, and a crop of very young, talented girl runners could expect invitations.

No firm athletics fixtures have been made between Britain and Kenya this summer but there is considerable anxiety about whether other African countries will follow Kenya's example. These include Tanzania whose Filbert Bay, the world 1,500 metres record-holder, had earlier agreed to race at the Crystal Palace national sports centre on August 10.

Mr David Ennals, Minister of State at the Foreign Office and MP for Norwich (North), broke the news to Norwich City that their soccer Safari to Kenya had been cancelled. Earlier he had received a personal telephone call from Mr Kenneth Matiba, Chairman of the Kenyan Football League, and a friend for 20 years.

"Mr Matiba wanted to tell me himself how sad and sorry he was about the whole affair", Mr Ennals said.

Everyone should know that the British government were against the Lions' rugby tour. The Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Minister for Sport all asked them not to go ahead. But, of course, we had no means of stopping it. You simply cannot stop people leaving the country when they are determined to go.

Mr Arthur South, club chairman, said: "I'm not really surprised at the news, but I am very disappointed."

Mr Matiba was later said to have indicated that he hoped the situation would change and that the Norwich visit would take place at a later date.

Kenya cuts sport ties with Britain over tour

Nairobi, May 8.—Kenya's National Sports Council today cut off all sporting links with Britain because of the British Lions' rugby tour of South Africa, a council spokesman said.

Mr Isaac Lugonzo, chairman of the council, said the ban will last "until such time as we are assured by bodies controlling sport in Britain that they will not allow their sportsmen or women to participate in sports activities organized by South Africa and any other racist regime".

All national sports associations in Kenya are being instructed to cancel pending tours or arrangements which may have been made with sports bodies, he said.

Kenya athletes now overseas are being told not to take part in any sports events organized in Britain or outside Britain in which British athletes are engaged, Mr Lugonzo said.

The Kenya football league also cancelled a tour which Norwich City, the British club, was to have made later this month.

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S African industrialist sees hope of change in economic growth

By Jerome Caminada

Mr Harry Oppenheimer, chairman of the Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, spoke plainly in London on Tuesday about the damage done to progressive change in that country by efforts abroad to cut off the inflow of investment capital and isolate it academically and in the South.

South Africans, he stated, who were trying to bring about peaceful change could "well do without" the efforts of Christian churches which collect money to support and comfort people trying to enforce their views "by the indiscriminate murder of innocent men, women and children".

Mr Oppenheimer was discussing prospects in South Africa after the general election there last month and was speaking also in his capacity as one of the founder members of the small liberal Progressive Party, which surprisingly won 10 seats in the election. His comments pleased some of a large audience at Chatham House, but other listeners showed their hostility in questions they put after his speech.

Answering one question on individual liberties, Mr Oppenheimer said there had been an erosion of civil rights, but it was a question of degree. He did not think the National Party in power interfered with the normal processes of election. More interference in individual liberty took place in other countries in Africa.

"Not true! Not true!" called out a member of the audience. Mr Oppenheimer replied that he had not been to many of the other countries of Africa, but anyone who read the press in those countries could see there was less freedom in some.

The meeting was organised by the Royal African Society and the Royal Institute of International Affairs. It was chaired by Lord Feather, the former General Secretary of the TUC.

In his address, Mr Oppenheimer said he was certain any ideas and policies in all political parties were more fluid, and the possibilities of change greater than today.

The Progressive Party's success at the expense of the United Party was important because it demonstrated that the United Party could no longer flirt with reactionary elements to the right, while simultaneously counting on the unquestioning loyalty of comparatively liberal-minded, suburban English-speaking constituencies which it had always relied on but neglected.

The Progressive had had no part in the long controversy between the English and African speaking sections of the white people. The party was actually a coalition of the road party able to act as a catalyst to induce change.

South Africa's rapid economic development was proving incompatible with the Government's racial policy. The present wages and conditions of work of African workers employed by British firms, and the parliamentary inquiry into this, had served a useful purpose, but were open to criticism in two ways.

Firstly there was a certain measure of disingenuousness. The wages and conditions of employment provided by British firms in South Africa were by no means inferior to those provided by British firms in many other countries.

The concentration on South Africa, to the exclusion of other countries, suggested that what was being done was to make an attack on the state of affairs in South Africa, dressed up as concern about the reputation of British firms as good employers of labour.

This justified some doubt about the way in which the statistical standards of "poverty datum line" and the "minimum effective level" were being used.

Secondly, there was an element of something approaching silliness in discussing wages entirely without reference to the historical background, the level of productivity prevailing, the standards of education and skills available, the structure of industry and the state of the labour market.

When diamonds and gold were discovered about 100 years ago, virtually no skilled workers were available, but there was a huge number of African tribesmen living in a state of savagery in their tribal areas. Until recently the growth of South

African economy had been based on "sucking more and more of these black peasants into money economy".

Their productivity was miserably low, and so were their earnings; but but were big than in the "rural status" which they came. It would be wrong to underestimate the difference between a desperately poor, and having nothing.

In the efforts to provide African workers from being too little care had to be taken not to condemn hundreds of thousands of them to not be paid at all. But having said the time had come in South Africa when this type of racial organization had to be replaced by high productivity, it was a capital issue organization.

African advancement was practice virtually impossible except in an expansionary environment. That was why it was wrong-headed to seek to bring the blacks by preventing capital inflow from abroad.

The Bantustan policy had certain psychological needs Africans and could not now easily be reversed. It had effects probably not foreseen far from bringing about a separation between black and white, was simply bringing about a situation in which authorities would play an increasingly powerful role in the controlled urban centres.

Everything pointed to a sort of federal constitution which the unity and diversity of South Africa could find. South African problem must be solved in South Africa by South Africans; the help of people outside could give limited, but the damage it could do was very considerable.

We are trying to end South Africa's international and social isolation, and to give all Africans as individuals to climate of world opinion which strongly condemns racial discrimination.

In these circumstances can therefore do without efforts of people who seek to isolate South Africa from the world, particularly academically, and the arts.

Former Premier carried out of Ceylon Parliament

From Our Correspondent, Colombo, May 8

Scuffles broke out in the national state assembly tonight as Mr Bahansayake, a former Prime Minister, was carried out of the chamber when he refused to leave after being named by the deputy speaker.

The fighting brought to a climax an angry debate in which Opposition members said the Government was violating the fundamental rights of the people by banning meetings of the opposition United National Party and also by having sealed the presses of the Independent Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd.

Mrs Bandaranaike, the Prime Minister, said there was a conspiracy about and certain police and army officers had been told not to obey Government orders.

She said the Independent Newspapers had been sealed because they were carrying malicious propaganda that thousands were dying of starvation.

The newspapers of this group had also incited the people against the Government. She was trying to let the situation function if it was prepared to be reasonable, otherwise things could remain as they were, she said.

The Ministry of Justice today denied a charge made by the International League for the Rights of Man in Geneva that 6,000 people arrested after the uprising in 1971 were still being held without trial.

Hongkong office charged with Godber payment

Hongkong, May 8.—Police Supt Cheng Heng was charged in court today charged with having paid former Police Supt Peter Godber HK\$25,000 (£2,000) in 1971 for protection.

Mr Godber, now living in Britain, is contesting extradition to Hongkong to face corruption charges.

Supt Cheng first appeared in court a week ago charged with living beyond his past or present means. Today he was remanded in custody.

Journalists win right

Nairobi, May 7.—Ugandan journalists and printers have won the right to seven days' paternity leave.

Mr Benn joins attack on sale of warships

By Our Political Staff

The row in the Labour Party over the Government's decision to permit the sale of four frigates to Chile took another turn this week when Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, rejected the explanations of Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, on the issue.

Miss Joan Lester, Under Secretary at the Foreign Office, and Mrs Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, also attacked the decision.

Mr Callaghan was unable to attend the meeting of the party's international committee which called upon the Government to reconsider its decision. Only two people defended Mr Callaghan: Mr Roy Mason, Secretary for Defence, who had been invited to attend, and Mr Tom McNally, Mr Callaghan's political adviser.

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Ethiopia Foreign Minister resigns

Addis Ababa, May 8.—Menassie Haile, the Foreign Minister, has resigned, the Ethiopian Government announced today. No reason was given.

Mr Menassie had been Foreign Minister since 1971.

Spassky-Karpov chess game adjourned

Leningrad, May 8.—Anatoly Karpov and Boris Spassky today adjourned after the forty-fifth move in the tenth game of their world chess challengers' semi-final match. Karpov leads 3-1.

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You and the new tax rates.

The Budget means changes in your PAYE deductions. Income Tax rates have gone up, so have personal and child allowances. How and when these new rates will affect you is shown below.

New, higher tax rates and personal allowances

The new tax rates take effect from 6 April. But 3 May is the earliest date by which new PAYE tax tables can be distributed to employers, and they can start to put into effect the new rates, and the higher allowances for single, married and wife's earnings.

Which means you pay at the old rate for April. An adjustment is therefore needed to put you on the new basis from 6 April—the start of the tax year.

The adjustment will take into account the higher tax rates and the bigger single and married allowances. It will be made on your first payday after 3 May (whether you are paid weekly or monthly), either by an increased deduction or—for those on low pay—by a reduced deduction or a repayment.

REMEMBER: THIS SPECIAL ADJUSTMENT APPLIES ONLY TO THE ONE PAYDAY.

The changes mean you have to pay more if you are single and earn more than £18 a week, or are married and earn more than £34.

New, higher child tax allowances Child allowances have also been increased, but will not normally affect PAYE deductions before 20 July. If you are affected by the change you will receive about 20 July a notice from the tax office showing your new PAYE coding.

If you have any questions, please call in at any Income Tax or PAYE Enquiry Office. For addresses, look in the phone book under "Inland Revenue".

Issued by the Board of Inland Revenue

Law Report May 8 1974

Sequestrators to accept £65,000 gift for union

Con-Mech (Engineers) Ltd and Others v Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (Engineering Section)

Before Sir John Donaldson, President, Mr J. E. Arkell and Mr J. W. Kenrick

The National Industrial Relations Court instructed the commissioners of sequestration appointed by the court to enable payment to be made of £65,000 compensation to Con-Mech (Engineers) Ltd, to accept an offer of £65,000 made to the AUEW by anonymous donors. The offer was made in the belief that the £65,000 was a loan to the national economy arising from the union's strike call which would be decreased.

The sequestrators were ordered to release to the union, in addition to the £55,000, the balance of £25,000 held under a previous sequestration, two blocks of gift-edged securities valued at £100,000 of the £100,000 of union funds in the Co-operative Bank held by the sequestrators. The remaining funds would be used to satisfy the claims of the sequestration, the £47,000 compensation, and county court judgment debts of about £4,000. The union had previously pointed out that it would consider any application made.

However, no application had been made. The court considered the £47,000 compensation, and county court judgment debts of about £4,000. The union had previously pointed out that it would consider any application made.

Mr Michael Howard for Con-Mech; Mr Peter Scott as amicus curiae; Mr Richard Southwell for the sequestrators; Mr E. Tabachnik for Mr George Hill and Mr Henry Rodden; Mr James Mason for Mr Eric Quarndon; Mr Gerald Rable for Mrs Maud Hendrick; Mr Brian Neill, QC, and Mr Richard Barclay for the anonymous donors. The union did not appear and was not represented.

SIR JOHN DONALDSON said that last Friday the court had evidence that the union had failed to pay the court's award of £47,000 compensation by the fixed date and was in contempt of court. The union had been invited to defend itself but had not done so. The court had enforced its judgment by an almost total sequestration of union funds (The Times, May 4).

Sequestration was a remedy which any court was reluctant to use. But the fact of "enforcement" of the court's judgment creditors, Mr Hill, Mr Quarndon, Mr Rodden and Mrs Hendrick, in attempting to get their money from the union had shown that no other remedy would be effective. The fact that the court had to find out which assets were "sequestrated" necessitated a total sequestration. The court had taken steps to keep the disruptive effects to a minimum.

The court had no intention of punishing the union or its mem-

bers. Its sole concern was to enforce its judgment. The sequestrators had been asked what was the earliest possible moment at which they could report progress and thereby give the court an opportunity of limiting the effects of the sequestration. The court said it would hold a special evening sitting beginning at 5 pm on Monday. An hour before the court was due to sit, a solicitor had called on the court secretary and asked whether the payment of £47,000 or more would make it unnecessary for the sequestration to proceed. It was a most unusual inquiry. It was not a case of a fine being paid by a stranger to avoid an alternative sentence of imprisonment. The union had not been fined. An offer to pay the judgment debt of another was a novelty. Clearly it was a matter which could only be decided by the court itself and the court had pointed out that it would consider any application made.

However, no application had been made. The court considered the £47,000 compensation, and county court judgment debts of about £4,000. The union had previously pointed out that it would consider any application made.

The court decided on Monday that it retained control over the £47,000 compensation, and two blocks of gift-edged securities the court could properly release all the other assets to the union. It was not a case, as reported in the press, of the court seizing £300,000 worth of assets. The sequestrators had already seized millions of pounds worth of assets in the process of sequestration. The court was releasing all those assets to the union except for the £100,000. The securities and the £25,000 they already held from a previous sequestration.

After Monday's hearing Mr Neill, the court's amicus curiae, personally. He was right to seek such an interview because a member of the Bar had a duty to the court as well as to his client. The union was in contempt. It was not proper for him to seek to intervene between the union and the court without first consulting the presiding judge. Sir John had told Mr Neill that the stage had been reached at which the hall of the sequestrated assets had been released to the union and that the

court would consider the disposal of the remainder today's sitting. The only result of an application on behalf of Mr Neill's clients to pay money to the court or the sequestrators would be to increase the sum being retained. Mr Neill said that he would consult his clients and the court heard no more until the present hearing.

The incident was unusual but involved no technical problems. The only problems arose from the fact that the sequestration had already been completed. The sequestrators were told that they could apply to the court almost at once, but they did not do so. They were also told that they were free to give the money to the union or any other person. The court now knew that they had not done so. The court was now making a final judgment. The union had not paid the money by Monday's hearing today's refund would have been increased by a large amount. The same result would have been achieved by a gift to the union.

The union had been given the opportunity of appearing to state whether they wished to claim the retained assets were "protected" under section 154 (4) of the Industrial Relations Act 1971. The union had not appeared. Since on the figures explained to the court not more than £65,000 would be needed to meet the claims of Con-Mech and the four judgment creditors the court could clearly release both blocks of gift-edged securities and part of the cash still remaining in the sequestrators' possession.

The judgment creditors' position was unusual, possibly unique. The court had been told that the claims of Mr Quarndon and Mr Hill were in respect of another sequestration. Both were union employees who had been held to have been unfairly dismissed. The union had refused to pay the judgment debts. The court was aware that it must not interfere with the union's treatment of employees divert it from its duty to apply the law strictly.

Mr Scott had submitted that the court's decision must be based on principle since the case was unique and there was no guidance from the authorities. One by-product of the sequestration was to identify the union's accounts and where they were being held. It would be possible for the creditors to return to the court and apply for a garnishee or charging order against the assets. The court had made it clear that they would have resisted them by force and other methods required knowledge of assets not previously available to the judgment creditors.

That was all true, but it was an odd situation. The union had possessed funds belonging to the union. If those funds had been in the possession of any one other than the sequestrators the court could have made a garnishee order in favour of the creditors. Therefore the Industrial Court was the only obstacle to the county court exercising jurisdiction over the funds.

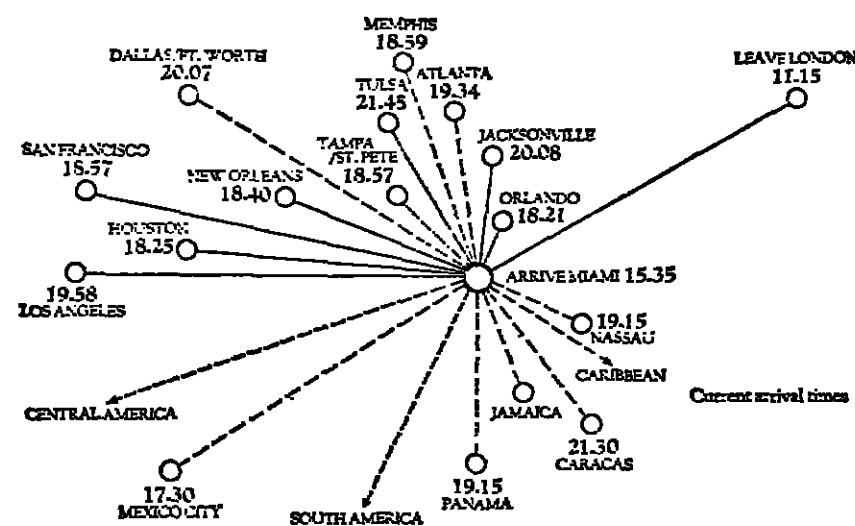
The only guiding principle was that justice was indivisible. The court must not allow its position as part of the High Court to defeat another court's order or another court's methods of obtaining justice. Therefore it was the court's duty to use any surplus funds in the sequestrators' hands to meet the judgment debts. The court was not deciding what its action would have been over creditors other than judgment creditors.

Mr Neill had appeared before the court at today's hearing. His clients had offered to pay £55,000 either to Con-Mech and the judgment creditors or to the sequestrators. They believed that it would in some way decrease the risk of damage to the national economy arising from the AUEW's strike call. The court could not understand why. If the money were paid to the sequestrators more money would be refunded to the union. The same result would occur if Mr Neill's clients paid the money directly to the union. Provided that it was clear that no surrender of the court's authority was involved, there was no reason in principle why it should not be accepted. The union had committed a contempt of court by not paying the compensation by April 29. The court would instruct the sequestrators to accept payment of the money offered.

Accordingly, the sequestrators would pay the union £25,000, the balance of the £100,000 previously taken and the accrued interest. The court had intended to order that the sequestrators should pay the union £100,000. The sequestrators' costs and those of Con-Mech would be taxed and paid by the sequestrators. Each judgment creditor would receive a lump sum of £25 for costs before the Industrial Court. Any balance would be paid to the union.

Solicitors: Barlow, Lyde & Gilbert; Treasury Solicitor; Clifford-Turner & Co; Ensor, Lisby & Firth; Southampton; Watson, Burton, Booth & Robinson, & Co; Newcastle upon Tyne; Amery, Parkes; Armstrong & Co; Lawrence, Graham & Co.

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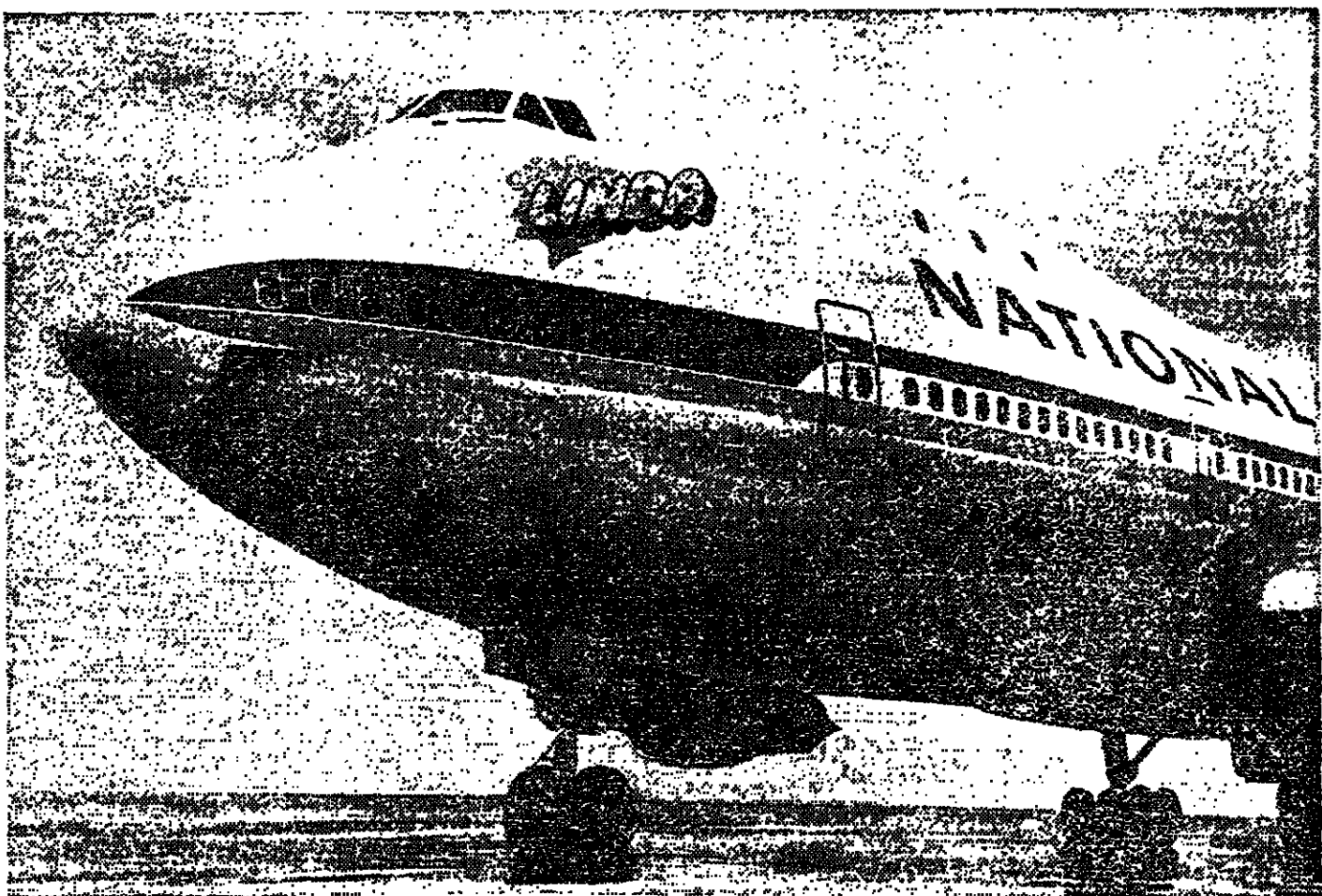


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Court of Appeal

Get-up-of goods cannot be a trade mark

Smith Kline & French Laboratories Ltd v Sterling-Winthrop Group

Before Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice Buckley and Lord Justice Lawton

A mark to be registered as a trade mark under the Trade Marks Act, 1938, must be something distinct from the goods in relation to which it is to be used and not merely a description or representation of the external appearance allowing an impression of the goods.

The Sterling-Winthrop Group, from the decision of Mr Justice Graham (The Times, June

15, 1973; [1973] 1 W.L.R. 1534) allowing an appeal by the applicants, Smith Kline & French Laboratories Ltd against the refusal of the Assistant Registrar of Trade Marks, acting for the Comptroller General, to register 10 of their trade marks.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was granted.

Mr G. D. Richardson, QC, and Mr Anthony Rogers for the applicants; Mr T. A. Bianco White, QC, and Mr Robin Jacob for the respondents.

that each of the 10 trade marks was in connection with a particular get-

up of a soluble capsule containing a drug in pellet form. The get-up of the capsules consisted in one half being coloured, the other half being colourless and transparent, the actual drug being in pellet form and the pellets being each coloured with one of two or more colours, the capsules being packed in a transparent plastic container.

The first question was whether there was a "mark" within the Trade Marks Act, 1938. It was not possible to describe or represent that which was said to be the "mark" in the proposed registration.

In *In re James Trade Mark* (1898) 2 Ch. 359, Lord Justice Lindley said that a mark must be something distinct from the thing marked. The thing cannot be a mark of itself. That case was authority for the proposition that one could not register as a trade mark that which, at any rate so far as shape was concerned, was nothing but a representation of the external appearance of the goods in question—the entire get-

up. A mark to be registered as a trade mark in respect of goods must be something which could be represented or described separately from the goods in relation to which it was to be used in the sense that it was not merely a description of the goods as they appeared to the eye. Of any of the capsules to which the present applications related it would in ordinary parlance be said to be described by its whole appearance rather than by the fact that it bore an indicative mark. The appeal should be allowed.

LORD JUSTICE BUCKLEY, concurring, said that the description of the mark contained in the application for registration was a description of "mark" within the meaning of the Act.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON, concurring, said that what the applicants sought to register was a mark which was not a description of the goods in relation to which it was to be used.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON, concurring, said that what the applicants sought to register was a mark which was not a description of the goods in relation to which it was to be used.

Solicitors: McKenna & Co, Woodham Smith & Greenwood.

Queen's Bench Division

Wife cleared of benefit offences: no mens rea

Moore v Branton
Before Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Ashworth and Mr Justice Bristow

[Judgment delivered May 7]

A wife who did not inform the Department of Social Security when she drew benefit that her estranged husband spent weekends at her home in an attempt to effect a reconciliation between them did not think the amount of benefit would be affected was not acting dishonestly and did not commit an offence under the Social Security Act 1966.

The section created an offence involving dishonesty in the true sense, and the evil aimed at was dishonesty in the true sense, the Queen's Bench Divisional Court said when allowing an appeal by Mrs Florence Joyce Moore, of Burnmoor Crescent, Ingleton, West Riding, against her conviction by justices at Ingleton last September of making representations which she knew to be false, in that she had reported any facts which could affect the amount of her benefit and that she was entitled to £18.10 and £19.10 respectively, whereas that was not true because she had become reconciled with her husband and was residing with him, contrary to section 23.

Section 23 provides: "If any person—(a) for the purpose of obtaining benefit or any other payment under this Act for himself or for another person; or (b) for the purpose of avoiding or reducing any liability to make such a payment or representation which he knows to be false, he shall be liable to imprisonment and/or fine."

Mr Alister Bell for the appellant; Mr Michael Howard for the Department of Health and Social Security.

MR JUSTICE BRISTOW said that the appellant started from her husband in 1970, and in 1971 a maintenance order was made in her favour. In 1973, as the justices found, she and her husband had a reconciliation; he lived with her at her home for weekends. There was nothing in the case stated to show that he contributed any money to the household other than under the maintenance order.

On January 22 and March 12, 1973, the appellant applied for social security benefit at the post office on an allowance order book. Paragraph 6 of the notes at the back of the book advised holders that they must inform the issuing office if—(c) anyone comes to

live in your house. Inside the front cover was a warning: "Each time you cash an order, you declare that you are entitled to the payment under the conditions set out in these instructions, which you have read and understood." Mrs Moore, who was a housewife and knowingly makes a false declaration or who attempts to obtain money fraudulently may be committing a criminal offence.

The justices found that there was simply a trial reconciliation, and that although the appellant had not informed the issuing office, she had told the truth when she said she did not think a trial reconciliation affected her benefit. The justices also found that her failure to make disclosure was not a dishonest failure with a view to committing a fraud. On those findings the case brought against her was not made out. The appellant was not residing with her husband, which in itself was sufficient to quash the conviction and Mr Howard did not seek to sustain it.

It was, however, right that the court should deal with the question posed by the justices, whether the essence of an offence under section 23 was the making of representations which the appellant knew to be false, or whether it was a failure to report any facts which could affect the amount of her benefit.

Section 23 created an offence involving mens rea in the true sense. The evil aimed at was dishonesty in the true sense, that of obtaining benefit to which a person was not entitled. The justices found specifically that the appellant was not dishonest in that she truly believed that what she had reported was true. It was doubtful whether the husband's weekend visits were within the words of paragraph 6 (c) of the notes requiring the person receiving benefit to inform the issuing office if anyone came to live in the house. If the justices found that the appellant genuinely did not believe that what had occurred could affect her benefit, they ought to have found her not guilty on that second ground also. The appeal should be allowed.

The Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice Ashworth agreed.

Solicitors: Simpson, Palmer & Winder for Greenwood, Kyle & Goad, Kirby Longdale; Solicitor, Department of Health and Social Security.

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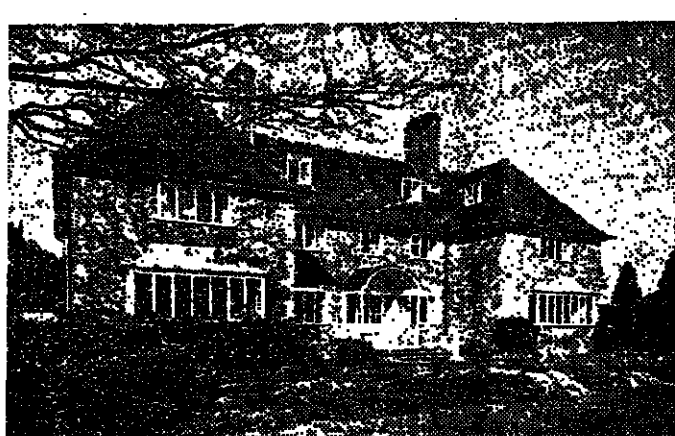
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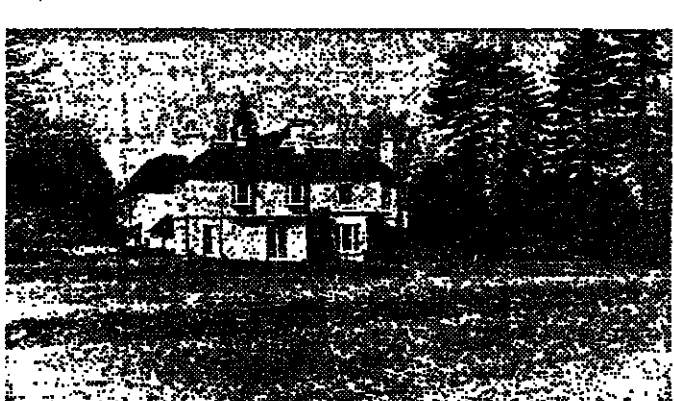
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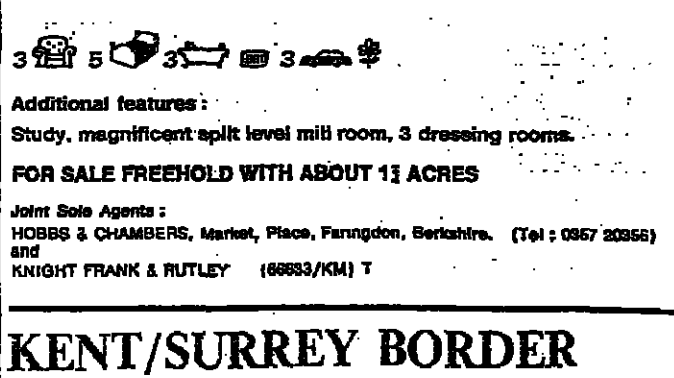
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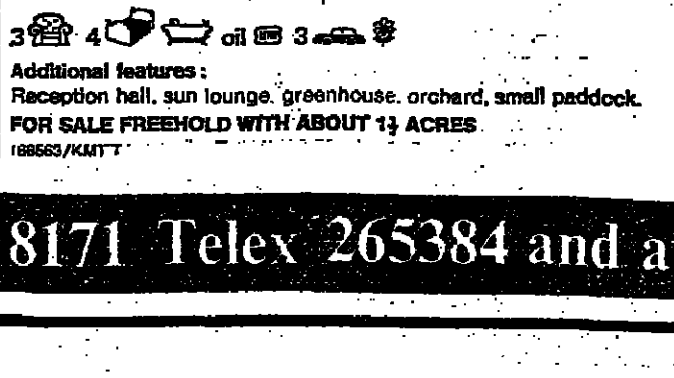
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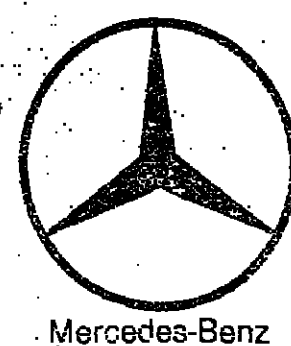
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Shackles that preserve Brazil's image of tranquillity

The Russell Tribunal, which met in Rome last month, and found Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Bolivia guilty of serious and repeated violations of human rights and of crimes against humanity, was hardly a disinterested one. It was not made up of 11 uninvolved citizens plucked at random from the streets of Rome, but of men who have spent great deal of their lives in conflict with right-wing governments. There was Sr Juan Bosch, the ex-president of the Dominican Republic, for example, and the Argentine Minister of the Alliance Administration.

But the evidence brought forward was distressingly familiar—torture by electric shock, beatings, mutilations and mysterious disappearances, the sort of accusations that a reporter hears constantly when travelling through those republics.

The Brazilian Government, with its largely successful attempts to create an image abroad of tranquillity and progress in order to attract foreign capital, reacts anxiously whenever such accusations appear, and they have continued to appear regularly since the military took over in 1964.

In a letter to *The Times* on March 14, Bishop Butler and others, who rarely in recent history have been so successful in suppressing civil liberties anywhere, have been more thorough. Each passing month, they claimed, had brought an ever-increasing number of substantiated reports of the dismissal, banning, imprisonment, torture and exile of dissident individuals from every walk of life; of the harassment of peasants and Indian communities; the destruction of labour associations and even of the persecution of a church of which traditionally Brazil had been the strongest defender.

In a private letter of reply, Sr Ronaldo Costa, the chargé d'affaires at the Brazilian embassy in London, wrote that he was saddened when false statements were accepted and blamed "the existence of a large group determined to discredit Brazil's reputation abroad." He cites a case on *Le Figaro*, which published on March 7, 1972, an account by a supposed political prisoner, Gerard Francis Blum, who claimed he had been tortured. A few days later the newspaper apologized, said that he had never been in prison, had never been tortured and that the "apology" was a figment of his imagination.

Sr Costa, while also dismissing the other charges, drew the bishop's attention to part of a speech made in January by General Geisel, the son of poor German immigrants who had just been inaugurated as the new president. The general gave a warning that Brazil, now part of international affairs, could not escape the difficult phase that the world was facing, particularly the "undisciplined violence, destructive and irrational, which is undermining the bastions of society." There would, he said, have to be a studied and pragmatic sense of priorities in a manner that did not sacrifice tomorrow in favour of immediate benefits.

The false, lurid tale in a Paris newspaper does not, of course, prove that stories of torture are untrue, while the new president would seem to be suggesting that, after 10 years of military rule, Brazil is still not ready to allow its people their traditional freedoms and is determined not to pause in its race to get rich quickly. Reforms will have to wait.

Undoubtedly the country is getting rich; everything else is secondary. Brazilian diplomats abroad all seem to be economists, reeling off endless statistics, their eyes gleaming with pride. The business of Brazil is business, and that's that. Lines of cars crawl bumper to bumper



President Geisel: A warning

per along the once quiet streets of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo; tall buildings thrust up in every direction, and there is confident talk about Brazil in the end, a certain nobility, over the rest of Latin America and of becoming a world power by the end of the century.

There has been, without doubt, torture in Brazil during the past 10 years, but the military line has been that it was never official policy. Amnesty International and the Roman Catholic hierarchy have both published evidence, and the former gave the figure of 1,000 people alleged to have been tortured between 1963 and 1972. Now and then a trial is allowed to be reported in the censored newspapers in which policemen are charged with and found guilty of torturing prisoners.

The opinion of many mainly professional Brazilians, when I talked to them last November before the new president had been inaugurated, was that many unpleasant acts had taken place and there was little opposition left for the military to worry about. That cruel period, they thought, was probably over.

There was optimism among those who remembered with enthusiasm the more democratic days, albeit less efficient, when the politicians were in power, that perhaps General Geisel might move towards restoring some freedoms. Each of the three military presidents since 1964—Castelo Branco, Costa e Silva and Médici—had all promised to restore democracy but not one of them attempted to bring it about. General Geisel will be any different? The military has imprisoned dissidents, imposed censorship and held trials of political prisoners in secret. It still rules under emergency acts which give it unlimited power, and it has created a government party, (and a token opposition), which automatically elects the man the military selects. The old joke, "There is a Yes Party and a Yes No Party," is still going the rounds.

This denial of free expression inevitably brings examples of ingenuity, absurdity and audacity. Anxious not to give too much emphasis to the coup d'état in Chile last October, the censor instructed the newspapers not to use headlines that by using no headlines and running the news in four columns from the top of the front page to the bottom, A love song with the refrain, "In spite of you" was banned, since too many people were singing it about the government. And a Frenchman made his own private protest in the streets of São Paulo last year with complaints of blank banners. He explained to the police that he wanted Brazilians to ask questions and create in their minds slogans for the banners.

David Wigg

Spy in the Chancellery gave Herr Brandt his chance to bow out

Bonn. The resignation on Monday of Herr Willy Brandt as Chancellor of West Germany brings to a sadly sensational close a government career without parallel.

It is a supreme irony that the man who added the word *Ostpolitik* to the international political vocabulary should be brought down by the discovery of an East German spy among his closest advisers. It was Herr Brandt, after all, who persuaded his countrymen to accept as a fact of life the very existence of East Germany as a separate country, and thus opened the door to world recognition of what had hitherto been a pariah state.

Why did Herr Brandt resign? In his letter to the President, he makes it clear that he regards the responsibility for what he calls the "negligence" which allowed the alleged spy, Herr Günter Guillaume, to become his personal assistant for party matters despite warnings from the security services, as his alone.

Thus what appears at first sight to be a sordid conclusion to an inspiring life story gains, in the end, a certain nobility. Herr Brandt's final legacy to his countrymen, as they prepare to celebrate 25 years of democracy in the western half of the old Reich, is a lesson in democracy and a demonstration of the principle of responsibility for the actions of subordinates which again has no parallel.

The discovery of a spy in the Chancellery's ante-room, while the short-term, does not compare with the contents of the White House tapes. Yet Mr Nixon remains in office while Herr Brandt bows out with a bunch of roses from his supporters in parliament and a letter from President Heinemann releasing him from his duties.

The discovery of "the spy in the Chancellery" therefore cannot be accepted as the whole story behind the shock Herr Brandt gave the world by his sudden departure. The real cause lies within his own personality, which drove him to commit an act of political suicide over an issue which many a lesser leader would have sidestepped with ease. To understand it, it is necessary to retrace Herr Brandt's career.

He was born in Lübeck in

December 1913, the son of an unmarried woman. By the age of 17 he was active in the ranks of the Social Democrats. He found it necessary to leave Germany soon after Hitler came to power to avoid persecution or worse by the Nazis, and spent the period up to the end of the war in Sweden and later Norway, where he joined the resistance. He returned to Germany in 1945 in the uniform of a Norwegian army major and covered the Nuremberg trials as a journalist. Although few will admit it, many of his countrymen regard his escape and wartime record as akin to treason.

This sounds astonishing, but I have come across this reaction so often here that its importance cannot be overstated. The spotless war record which left his hands clean and his conscience clear when it came to reconciliation with some of the principal victims of Nazi aggression, was an unstated but very real political disadvantage at home.

But he overcame his disadvantageous birth, and his open assertion, in a religious context, that he had no faith, to rise rapidly within the Social Democratic Party in West Berlin, of which he became governing mayor in 1957. He held that

post for a heady period of 10 years during which he became the living symbol and inspiration of a beleaguered city. It was inevitable that he would become chairman of his party, as happened in 1964. His defeat in the 1965 federal election was followed by a heart attack and a deep depression of a kind which showed signs of having returned in recent months.

In 1966 he became Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor in the "grand coalition" government led by the Christian Democrats. Although few will admit it, many of his countrymen regard his escape and wartime record as akin to treason.

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In October, 1969, therefore, he formed a new coalition with the Free Democrats and formed the first postwar SPD-led government with a majority of 12. Within a matter of hours it became clear that the new Chancellor had it in mind to change the course of German history by settling the long overdue account of reconciliation with eastern Europe.

Within a year, non-aggression treaties had been concluded with Russia and Poland, Herr Brandt had exchanged visits with the East German Prime Minister of the time, Herr Willy Stoph, and the Ostpolitik proceeded from triumph to triumph. In 1971, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1972, the general relations treaty with East Germany was concluded, and last year a treaty with Czechoslovakia annulling the 1938 Munich agreement. West Germany could at last take its place at the United Nations.

But the strains of the Ostpolitik, and the defection by government deputies it caused, led to the collapse of his first administration in the autumn of 1972. Herr Brandt was forced to engineer the first premature election in West German history.

This bitter experience was washed away when the SPD won the biggest electoral support of its century of existence. When the second coalition with the Free Democrats was formed in November 1972, therefore, Herr Brandt could spend as long as he liked, or even lived, in the Palais Schaumburg.

Six months later it had all turned sour. The Ostpolitik was all but over, yet the eastern Europeans were as nasty as ever. Herr Brandt, knowing what he had achieved to be irreversible, was able to accept the setbacks. Many ordinary people could not. But he grew disillusioned, depressed and disgusted by the endless bickering within the coalition and also inside his own party over the shape and execution of the proposed internal reforms they had been elected to carry out.

Early this year he walked out of a cabinet meeting in outraged silence, leaving his ministers to work out for themselves, more than an hour later, that he was not coming back. His party sank in the polls because he would not give a lead.

It is not often that one can forecast the resignation of a perfectly fit, universally admired statesman with a large parliamentary majority within six months of his taking office. By the beginning of this year it became safe to predict that Herr Helmut Schmidt would take over within 12 months. Had there been no spy in the Chancellery, Herr Brandt would have found some other reason to go, for with the Ostpolitik complete, he knew his work was done.

Faced with an acute shortage of labour, London Transport last year asked the Department of Employment if it would be possible to recruit staff from outside the European Economic Community.

"I was advised by the department there was virtually no hope," said Mr J. E. Mortimer, the member of the executive responsible for personnel and industrial relations.

On May 1, London Transport officials went to the department, accompanied by union officials, this time to see Mr Fox. One proposal being discussed in London Transport for staff on the hard-pressed Underground system would be outside Phase Three and pay 20 per cent on its pay bill. A scheme to attract more bus staff is still being worked out.

The two approaches demonstrate the dilemma facing not only London Transport but other industries which have been helped in the past by cheaper immigrant workers and where labour is now short.

London Transport, like the hospital service, would suffer chaos were it not for immigrants. To overcome previous shortages London Transport recruited over 4,600 West Indians, the vast majority from Barbados, from 1956 until the squeeze on immigration in the late 1960s.

The scheme was well organized. Barbadian government officials, with knowledge of the sort of people required, selected them in Barbados and lent money for their air fares. In London 10 years ago I accompanied one batch of recruits when they were met at London Airport and taken by coach to selected lodgings. The accommodation I saw was comfortable and friendly.

London Transport gave the men a chance to adjust and a good basic training. The scheme was a success, Mr Mortimer says. "Coloured workers employed by London Transport have made an outstandingly good contribution to our system. Such evidence as we have (separate records are not kept for coloured people) is that the labour turnover is lower than in the white labour force."

Today, however, the labour shortage is worse than ever, with resulting delays on

Who will keep London from grinding to a halt?

There should be more than 480 Underground trains running during peak hours on the winter system. We have quite a struggle to maintain over 400 trains on occasions," says Mr Morris.

"On the buses more than per cent of our scheduled runs in 1973 couldn't be operated because of staff shortages. London Transport has 7,000 men and women short."

Many employees feel that seeking to solve the shortage by introducing immigrant labour only disguises it. They point out that over the past 20 years the number of bus drivers has halved, despite the fact that the introduction of more immigrants would keep down wages and defer the day of reckoning.

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Chancellor Brandt with Herr Günter Guillaume, who is now accused of spying for East Germany.

Dan van der Vat

Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Time now for Ulster to assert its independence

The one certain fact about Northern Ireland is that things are getting worse not better. Despite the efforts of successive British Governments and Secretaries of State and thanks in no small measure to anti-Irish elements such as the IRA and UVF, feeling against the Republic is running higher, and many Roman Catholics, than at any time since 1914.

Hugh Mulrooney recently suggested that the options were Irish Unity or Chaos; and many people this side of the Irish Sea would welcome unity if only because a few miles of field, bog and woodland do not. Unhappily this thesis ignores the plain and obvious fact that nearly a million Ulstermen were willing to fight to prevent Dublin and would unquestionably do so again if the threat were ever posed. Such a suggestion, if implemented, would thus convert a civil war in the United Kingdom into a civil war in the Republic.

The classic contention of the south is that the 32 counties form a geographical entity, while the north, as a Crown Colony, is a political entity. O'Brien courageously put in his *States of Ireland* there is no warrant to support

this assumption. The Iberian Peninsula, for example, has a sharply defined integrity, yet nobody suggests Portugal should be ruled by Spain. After nearly three centuries of independence it was taken over briefly from 1581 to 1640: that period is now termed "the 60 years captivity". Yet despite the Republic's acceptance of the 1925 Treaty (which is incidentally binding under the Treaty of Rome) their 1937 Constitution explicitly laid claim to the Six Counties in Articles 2 and 3. This is bitterly resented by almost all Ulstermen; and, notwithstanding the present Taoiseach's handsome pronouncement on the subject, deep suspicion of the Republic's motives will remain, driving two-thirds of the population to adopt a "British" stance, as if by some innate love of Britain as in self-defence.

But if the Irish have displayed lack of imagination here, we have also. Over the years our attitude seems to have been "Ireland was once part of the United Kingdom: 26 Counties were cut out, but that is no reason why anyone else should. This lofty posture drives the remaining third of the population into an "Irish" stance, again as a defence mechanism. Thus the British Government has pursued lines calculated to accentuate Northern Ireland

differences rather than foster that which should unite the people—namely being Ulstermen. Is it not time then that both Britain and the Irish Republic should renounce any claim to Ulster now in the future and leave Ulstermen subject to joint guarantees and an entrenched constitution, to rebuild their own country with the *raison d'être* of both IRA and UVF removed? Their heated land has been for far too long the cockpit of an ill-concealed, outdated Anglo-Irish rivalry and enmity is enough.

Of all the options canvassed Ulster independence is the least popular—appealing to only 4 per cent of the electorate at the last public opinion poll. But that is not to say that it is ridiculous, simply that it has never been seriously considered. Yet there is an eminently respectable precedent in the history of Belgium. In 1815 the Congress of Vienna, in order to remove the Low Countries from France's sphere of influence, ceded Belgium to the Netherlands, but this arrangement failed to work because of the hostility between the Northern Flemish Protestants ("Orangemen") and the Southern Walloon Catholics; and extensive civil disturbances took place. Here you have all the ingredients of the Ulster situation: racial hatred, religious and cultural, cleavage

with no clearly defined linguistic border and outside powers seeking an advantage. In the event, following a brief rebellion, independence under a carefully contrived constitution was granted in 1830.

Although no one expected the tiny country to survive as an independent state, once established, it was a success. The two communities, deprived of either Nordic or Latin support, had to live together to survive. They did so with a minimum of friction. Indeed with the passage of time a wider unity, the Benelux Federation, has come into being. Would it not then be possible to restore a unity within a diversity by working for an English-speaking Benelux within the EEC consisting of an independent Britain, Ireland and Ulster, with a Council of the British Isles? Such a body would be much less emotive to an Ulster Protestant than that envisaged at Sunningdale.

In practice no use of value between Ulster and the United Kingdom would be broken any more than would any link with the Republic. To prove this, it is only necessary to point out that no British interest has been damaged by the Republic's decision to extend and simplified border, since the old county boundaries have neither geographical nor ethnic relevance. In a spirit of give and take, then, Catholic saloons in Armagh, Fermanagh and Tyrone should be handed to the Republic and the predomi-

lantly nearly a million Irishmen elected to live in this country and many of them served with distinction in the Second World War. It is moreover perfectly possible for a peer to serve in the legislatures of both England and Ireland simultaneously—and one indeed does so. Joint reciprocal citizenship, therefore, could ensure that Ulstermen continued to enjoy all rights in whatever part of the old United Kingdom they chose to live.

So, far from weakening the new Ulster power-sharing executive—the one positive achievement of the past six turbulent years—the services of foreign ties with both London and Dublin should serve to strengthen it by the links, both formal and informal, that would grow in their place.

There would remain the question of defence and here both the United Kingdom and the Republic would have to help, preferably as a joint operation for a number of years by policing the border, which would prevent the smuggling of livestock. But it should be extended and simplified border, since the old county boundaries have neither geographical nor ethnic relevance. In a spirit of give and take, then, Catholic saloons in Armagh, Fermanagh and Tyrone should be handed to the Republic and the predomi-

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David James

The author is Conservative MP for Dorset North.

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The Times Diary

Frightening the life out of us all

and Yugoslavia, but we were both shocked by the man who recalled a recent flight on Cameroun Airlines.

The British Airways Jumbo was nearly full, with people presumably escaping before the end of cabin crew scheduled for the following day. It was an uneventful flight, the tedium relieved slightly by the film—*Woody Allen's Sleeper*. It was a mite inopportune. It is set 200 years into the future when, according to the fictional plot, it has been discovered that things previously thought bad for you—things like cream, fat, sugar and tobacco—are in fact beneficial.

That view would be regarded as heretical by our hosts. Arriving at our hotel at six in the evening, we found our first briefing scheduled for 7.30. In London, where our day had started, it was 1.30 am.

Regarding that they sat us all, willing from jet lag, in a conference room and gave us a gruesome tour, illustrated with slides about how we were all in growing danger of our hearts giving out on us. For those like me who are squeamish about sickness and death, this surely amounted to cruel and unusual punishment for a dinner of the constitution.

We were told that 25 per cent of men in Britain die of heart disease. There has been a six fold increase since 1931 and it is catching people younger. Smoking, lack of exercise, stress, poor drinking water and family history were all factors which seemed to contribute to

the disease, but diet was the one which concerned our speaker.

It was no use waiting until the first signs of trouble appeared, we were told. By then, it might be too late. Cutting cholesterol and saturated fats should begin now. The best substitutes are sunflower oil, vegetable oils and the kind of soft margarine high in polyunsaturated fats. We should cut fat from meat, drink milk instead of cream and eat only three eggs a week.

Eggs are high in cholesterol. Experiments, we were told, are under way to produce an egg low in cholesterol, taking some fat out of the yolk and replacing it with sunflower oil. This makes an egg acceptable for eating but not as yet for making cakes.

Finally, there was discussion about why some members of the medical profession are said to be sceptical about the role of cholesterol and saturated fats in causing heart disease. There were even sinister hints about pressures by dairy farmers' interests to have the evidence discounted.

Similar dark hints were dropped by Stammer when we met him early next morning. He spoke of "underground propaganda" by the dairy industry. "They don't like us," he said, "and we're very nervous."

Consequently, he claimed, the dairy people had falsified his case. They accused him of advocating a diet excessively high in

FOO

That'll teach them for always demanding equal time.

that 700,000 Americans died of the disease every year, a quarter of them under 65.

For every fatal heart attack, one or two people suffered non-fatal events of varying gravity. "The people who have heart attacks," he said, "are ungentle enough not to drop dead immediately—they're the real problem."

At the moment the disease affects mostly men but its incidence among women is growing. Stammer believes this is due to the increase of cigarette smoking among women and also perhaps to the use of the contraceptive pill. There is tentative evidence, he said, that the pill could be a contributory factor.

A large problem was how to alert people to the danger without creating mass hysteria. "You want to avoid anxiety and to stop people presenting themselves unnecessarily at consulting rooms." The symptoms of acute indigestion and a heart attack are hard to distinguish. When President Warren Harding died from a heart attack, his death certificate said the cause was "acute indigestion complicated by a hardening of the arteries."

Stammer concluded: "Heart disease is the great white plague of the second half of the twentieth century—just as TB was for the nineteenth century."

Stress

Chicago is the centre of the heart disease prevention industry. A symbol of this is Science and Industry—a 16ft high model of a heart which visitors can walk inside to see how it works.

We visited the offices of the Chicago Heart Association, a voluntary body which trains people for heart risk factors,

advises on precautionary diet and organizes events like last November's Heart Attack Prevention Week in the city.

There were given copies of the American Heart Association's booklet, an attractive volume of more than 400 pages, costing £3.50. On the cover it boasts: "Good health as well as good flavour built into every recipe." We were also told of a two-week pilot by the local association, which involved cutting the amount of saturated fats and sugar in school lunches, and the amount of saturated fats in the home. Only 8 per cent of pupils, it was said, had refused to drink skimmed milk instead of the ordinary kind.

The object is to get at people while they are young and to instill more sensible eating habits. For years schools have been getting better butter supplies encouraged by government price supports. This has given children a taste for butter which many of them never lose. The association is also working on hotels and restaurants, trying to get them to offer a "heart-healthy menu" of low cholesterol and saturated fats, alongside their normal menu.

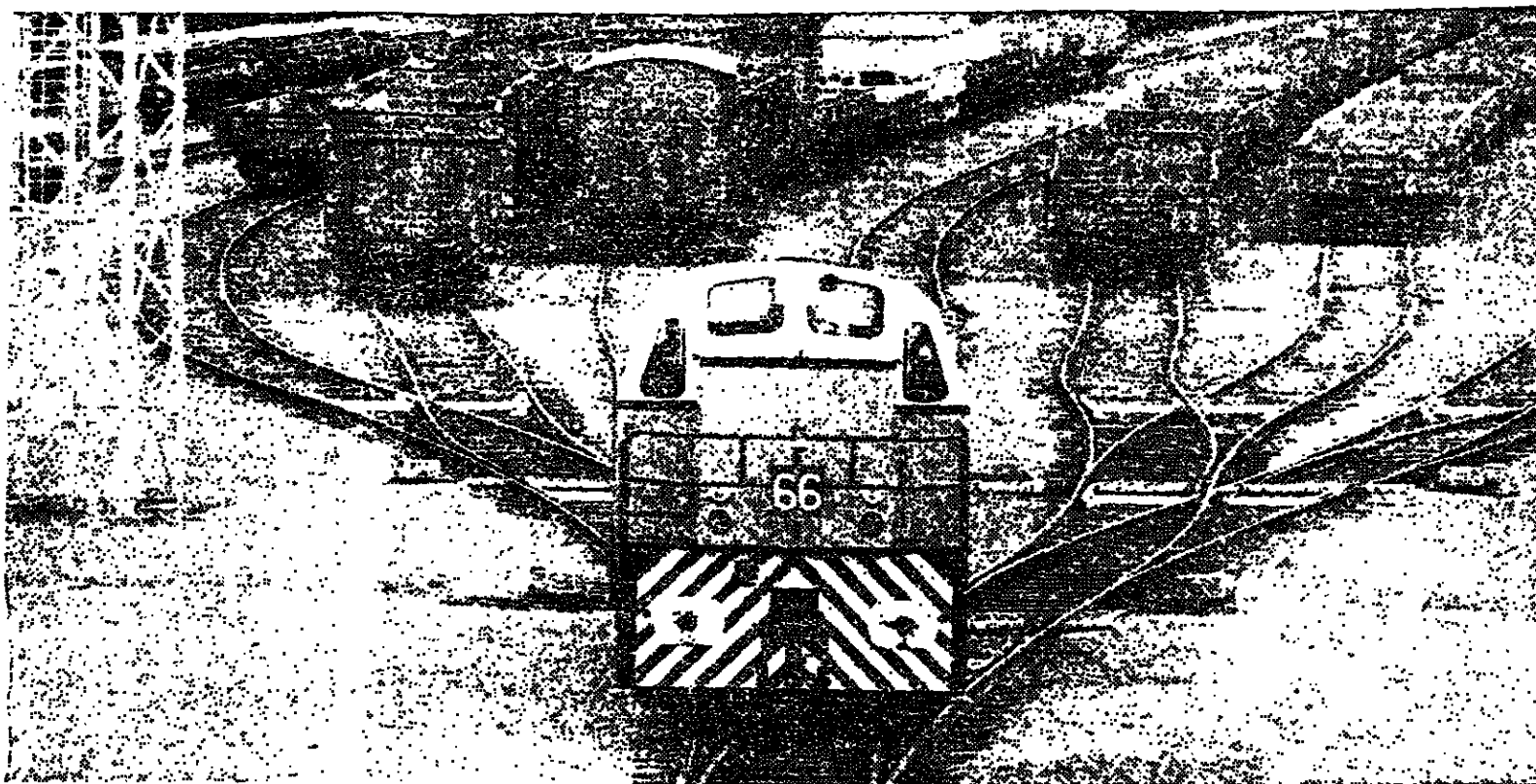
At the association, we learnt that this month has been designated National High Blood Pressure Month in the United States. Clearly the purpose of giving us all this alarming information is not to increase the incidence of stress and hypertension among visiting reporters, but I fear that would be its effect.

I am clinging precariously to point one of a pamphlet called "Blood Pressure—part of the massive documentation we have been given so far." "Try not to worry," it says. "I try."

PHS

Export Corridors of the World

FRANCE



By ship and by rail the goods flow in and out of France. Left: on the bridge of a French ship off Marseilles. Right: railway sidings at the Dunkirk port complex.

Energy crisis turns a healthy overseas surplus into a deficit

by Richard Wigg

France last year achieved for the first time third place in the world league of exporting countries, after the United States and West Germany and alongside Japan. It had thus overhauled Britain, which held that third place only three years before.

In one of the battles of the French Presidential election campaign M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing singled out this advance—a 41 per cent expansion last year in exports, worth 15,000m francs (more than £1,300m)—as one of the biggest achievements of his years as Minister of the Economy and Finance.

But last year's triumph for the French economy in the export sector has been spectacularly turned around by the effects of the energy crisis, plus high raw material prices generally. In-

stead of looking forward comfortably to an export surplus of 8,000m francs for 1974, France now faces a likely deficit of 18,000m to 20,000m francs on its foreign trading balance.

In a broadcast last January to the French people, intended to familiarize them with the changed situation, M Giscard d'Estaing said: "An 18,000m francs deficit is more than one month of our exports. This means that France in 1974 must work a thirteenth month for exports so that we can progressively reestablish our foreign trading equilibrium. The objective which we can reasonably set ourselves is to achieve a satisfactory trading balance by the end of 1975. This will mean a considerable effort to develop our industrial and agricultural exports."

In this effort M Giscard d'Estaing estimated at least a 10 per cent economizing in petrol products for 1974, which instead of costing the

previous figure of 15,000m francs was estimated to cost, even with this saving, some 45,000m francs for the year. (That figure obviously depends on future movement of oil prices.)

Most French experts believe, however, that the Giscard "thirteenth month" call is over-optimistic and exclude the possibility that France can increase its exports with sufficient rapidity. M René Montjoie, the commissioner for the national plan, for instance, has estimated that, even with a considerable investment effort and reduction in national consumption patterns, a trade balance cannot be looked for until 1978, four years instead of two.

Half France's export earnings last year came from manufactured goods, including capital and consumer durables, 20 per cent from agricultural and food products, and 26 per cent from semi-processed materials. Seventy per cent of total exports went to European

countries, headed by West Germany, France's chief trading partner, and 55 per cent went to EEC countries. A feature of the year was a loss of ground in both Germany and the United States, made up particularly in the first 10 months of the year by a 48 per cent expansion of French exports to the United Kingdom, which surged ahead dramatically after Britain's entry.

A competitive currency has been behind France's intensive export effort in the past few years, consciously pursued to permit a still weak industrial set-up, by comparison with, say, West Germany, to compete on new markets for example those outside former French colonies or other spheres of influence.

Since 1969 the franc has lost more than 50 per cent of its value to the Deutsche mark, and there have been fewer but significant losses in comparison with the Dutch guilder and the Belgian franc, which as France's neighbours are her easiest export mar-

kets. The franc has been floating since January 19, but French exporters tend to feel that little export advantage could be obtained from a further movement downwards in the months ahead.

The German experience is cited increasingly, with quality of industrial goods, after-sales service, and a strong implantation in a foreign country regarded as more important than tampering with the currency.

On March 20 the French Government announced a series of measures designed to facilitate the national export effort and reduce energy consumption, for which M Giscard d'Estaing had called at the beginning of the year.

But the French employers' confederation, the *Patronat*, hardly bothered to hide their disappointment at the timidity of the measures. They improved a little the medium and long-term credit facilities, notably in catching up with what the West Germans do for their exports, but with little to help credit over the period of the six to 10

months in which a large proportion of French export business is conducted.

The most important measure provides for additional loans through the official *Crédit National* organization at interest rates below 10 per cent on condition that firms take a binding engagement to increase their exports. Another proposal, announced with a considerable flourish, to permit French firms to set off up to half on their investments overseas as exempt from company tax profits (instead of a third) has been toned down, evidently to avoid falling foul of the EEC export regulations.

The French Government has also marked out for special export efforts certain potential markets in developing countries possessing considerable raw material resources, such as the Middle East oil states and others like Malaysia, Indonesia, Brazil, Venezuela, Nigeria and Zaïre.

The *Compagnie Française d'Assurance pour le Commerce Extérieur* (the equivalent of the Export Credits Guarantee Department) is also to be pushed, with the backing of the French Treasury, into taking more political risks.

Contrary to what was often said abroad immediately

after the oil crisis broke, the French authorities have not developed their thinking along aggressive trade expansion lines. Among French industrialists there is indeed a good deal of realism about the immensity of the task of reducing the industrial countries' balance of payments deficits.

With world food shortages, France is certainly hoping to increase her agricultural exports, but in other sectors the potential for importing consumer goods by most of the developing countries is seen as strictly limited.

The rapid growth of French exports in recent years and the relatively recent indus-

trialization have left certain problems, for instance, too little participation by small and medium-sized French firms in the export drive (although these companies are commercially flourishing), with a few world famous French car and chemical concerns dominating the export market. Some key industrial export sectors such as machine tools lag behind, and the French equivalent of trading companies are responsible for only 14 per cent of France's exports, compared with 40 per cent in Britain. Often they still specialize only in agricultural products, like cereals.

THE NORTH

Decision to concentrate on Europe has paid off

by Michael Parrott

No single factor has contributed more to France's emergence as a major exporting nation than the formation of the European Economic Community in 1958. Only 15 years later the French Government was able to announce that France had overtaken Britain to become fourth in the league table of world exporters—behind the United States, West Germany and Japan. At one stage last year, it was even beating the Japanese.

But in this general euphoria it was perhaps forgotten that half of France's exports went to its EEC neighbours and more than 70 per cent to the European area as a whole.

This does not detract from the enterprise French companies have shown in abandoning their traditional protectionist attitudes and going full out for the vastly larger market that has been opened to them. Their decision to concentrate on Europe has undoubtedly been successful, as this area has been the world's fastest growing industrial market. It does, however, indicate that rather than becoming world traders French companies have merely widened their concept of the home market to include their European neighbours.

It is this blurring of national frontiers within continental Europe which explains why the northern regions of France have been the main beneficiaries of France's sharp increase in exports over the past 15 years. Exports from the three regions of Nord-Pas de Calais, Picardy and Upper Normandy totalled some 24,000m francs in 1972, about 19 per cent of France's export effort.

The Nord-Pas de Calais region, which includes industrial centres such as Lille,

Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne, alone exported goods worth 12,500m francs, Upper Normandy, which includes the industrial complexes of Le Havre and Rouen, 5,900m and the more rural Picardy, with towns like Amiens and Beauvais, exported goods worth 5,600m francs.

The importance of the market to these regions is striking. The 1972 figures, which are the latest available, but which do not include Britain as a member, show that West Germany bought goods worth 4,700m francs from the region, Benelux 4,500m, and Italy about 2,000m. The six as a whole took 12,000m francs worth of products, the rest of Europe about 5,500m (of which the European Free Trade Area accounted for about half), the United States took 1,300m and North Africa about 1,000m francs worth.

North improves export share

No other region except Paris has done so well in exports. Of some 129,000m francs worth of goods exported by France in 1972, this northern corridor accounted for about 19 per cent compared with 11.5 per cent from Alsace-Lorraine and 14 per cent from the regions of Rhône-Alpes, Provence, Cote d'Azur. The Paris region, however, accounted for 26 per cent.

Even more remarkable is that the north seems to be pulling away. In 1972 the north and east of France both improved their share in France's export growth, while Paris and the southern corridor suffered slight declines. It was in 1972 that Nord-Pas de Calais replaced the Rhône-Alpes region as France's most dynamic exporting region after Paris.

Although it may now appear natural that the northern corridor should be better placed than the south to benefit from booming trade with the Community, it was certainly not so evident 16 years ago. At that time the north was still suffering from the ravages of war and its major industries—coal, textiles and steel—were becoming increasingly uncompetitive.

The EEC changed all that. With the Ruhr-Rostov-Lille triangle soon becoming the driving force behind its industrial expansion, northern France could not help being stimulated by the expansion of its neighbours.

Although Rotterdam remains Europe's most important port, Le Havre and Dunkirk can receive larger ships than can pass through the Strait of Dover. Calais, Boulogne and Dunkirk are the nearest ports of transit for Britain. A vast network of canals links Dunkirk, Lille, Gent, Charleroi, Liège and eventually the Rhine.

Rail links have always been good, but with the opening of the Paris-Brussels motorway it is now possible to reach Holland or Germany in a few hours. What is still lacking is a good motorway linking the north and the east of France and a pipeline for oil products.

These transport links have given the north great advantages but they would not have been of much value if the government had not encouraged a complete transformation of the industrial activities of the region. Ever since 1958 new growth industries have been brought into the area to make up for the decline of its traditional activities.

In the past the constant fear of military invasion made the French authorities and industry reluctant to

locate more strategic activities in the area than they really had to. The new climate of international confidence, inside Western Europe has lifted this obstacle to development in the area.

The most important single industry to be drawn there is undoubtedly the motor industry. La Française de Mécanique, a joint subsidiary of Renault and Peugeot, is developing an important engine plant at Douvri-La Bassée. Another joint venture of the two companies, La Société de Transmissions Automatiques, produces automatic gearboxes at Ruit near Bruy-en-Artois.

Largest refining centre

Chausson, France's largest bodywork maker, set up a plant at Maubeuge. Renault, which already has a plant at Sandouville, is to produce private cars at Douai; and Chrysler-Simca is setting up a plant at Valenciennes. Among tyre manufacturers Firestone has plants at Béthune and Lens. Good year and Dunlop have plants at Amiens; and Michelin is planning a plant at Roubaix.

The French motor industry is second only to that of West Germany in Europe, and its export growth is even greater. In 1972 the northern region exported cars and motor cycles worth 2,000m francs.

Another important industry which has been developed in the area is petrochemicals. With Le Havre as France's second most important importer of crude oil and the largest refining centre, the Seine region has developed a powerful petrochemical industry with giant plants at Gontreville and Saint-

Jérôme. Chemicals and synthetic rubber accounted for 2,500m francs of exports in 1972.

The northern region remains an important exporter of agricultural products with 2,500m francs of foreign sales, but it is the food processing industry which is making a name. In 1972 processed food to the value of 3,300m francs was exported from the northern corridor. But the area's main exports remain in its traditional activities—engineering products, which accounted for 3,500m francs in 1972, textiles (2,800m francs) and steel (1,800m francs).

If the north has steadily developed its export potential there are no grounds for complacency. The northern corridor also happens to be easily the heaviest importer after Paris. In 1972 its purchases accounted for some 23 per cent of the French export bill compared with only 14 per cent for the southern corridor, and the north as a whole had a deficit of some 5,500m francs.

The other weakness of the north is its tremendous dependence on the other Community economies. The enlargement of the EEC should spread the north's export efforts over rather more countries, but the slightest downturn in Germany, Benelux or Italy would have a drastic effect on its export industries. West Germany, Italy and Benelux account for between 45 and 50 per cent of the exports of each of the three regions.

At a time when the southern corridor of France is preparing to profit from the growth expected in the Mediterranean region during the next few years, the north should start developing its trade with countries outside Europe—whether in the Americas, Africa or Asia.

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This is the first of a series of Special Reports on major industrial areas and their export outlets.

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Le Havre: making a factory in a port

by Michael Frenchman

A few miles to the north of Le Havre is a cluster of houses, a farm or two and some old barns which make up the village of Antifer. Below the white cliffs a huge breakwater creeps out towards the Needles and Britain. When completed it will shelter the million-ton tankers which will butt their way up the Channel to the coast of Normandy.

Antifer will become one of Europe's largest oil terminals and the newest addition to the port of Le Havre. Situated at the mouth of the Seine, which winds its way to the coast from Paris, this town is one of France's most important export outlets.

With vigorous determination and an eye to the future M. P. Bastard, director-general of the port authority, has succeeded in making it more than just a port. Apart from the miles of wind-swept concrete wharves, deepwater berths, roll-on, roll-off facilities and ferry terminals there are vast industrial areas already being occupied by a wide range of industries—car factories, cement and plastics companies, refineries and so on.

As M. I. Thillard, president of the port authority, says: "We have tried to make a factory in a port and to put a ship in the factory."

As with all French ports there is considerable rivalry over statistics. Feeling runs especially high between Le Havre and Marseilles, France's other major export corridor outlet.

In 1972 Marseilles took 84,400,000 tons of cargo compared with 66,400,000 tons at Le Havre, which handled the fourth largest amount of goods through any European port. The first was Rotterdam with 260 million tons and Antwerp had 67 million tons.

Last year Le Havre handled 89 million tons and became the third busiest port in Europe. Despite this 34 per cent rise in traffic it was still just behind Marseilles. However, Le Havre was the leading port in France for general dry cargo, which amounted to 5,600,000 tons, broken down into conventional loads (41 per cent), roll-on, roll-off (30 per cent) and containers (20 per cent).

Through its "factory in a port" concept Le Havre is a typical illustration of the export corridor principle. Raw materials come to the port by sea or from other French or European centres along the Paris-Rouen canal in barges. They unload alongside the processing plants and facto-



The Quai de l'Atlantique at Le Havre, France's leading port for general dry cargo.

ries where their cargoes are turned into manufactured articles. These goods are distributed again by barge to the heartland of France or loaded straight aboard ship for export.

Dozens of companies have established themselves in the 25,000-acre industrial area which has been set aside by the port authority to encourage further development and investment. They include Renault, whose output of 950 cars a day goes straight from the factory gates on to huge push barges in the Tancarville canal.

There is also the great Compagnie Française de Raffinage, which operates one of the world's largest oil refineries (23 million tons capacity). Alongside is the Gonville petrochemical complex, which covers 270 acres. Other big French names include the CNMP, Ciments Lafarge and Hydrocarbures de St Denis.

Investment in the development of Le Havre is running

at about £1m a week. About two fifths of this is used for actual operating costs of the port and its infrastructure and the remainder is for direct investment programmes.

According to M. Bastard one of the areas that have been neglected at most other ports is the provision of covered storage and warehousing and much of the new investment is going to be spent on these facilities.

Containerization is a vital part of the port's function. Last year 124,154 containers were handled compared with 93,088 in the previous year and only 17,600 in 1968. In 1973 nearly 400 container ships and feeders used the port in addition to another 311 ocean-going and 348 feeder vessels.

There were also dramatic increases for passenger and vehicular traffic. The number of passengers carried rose by 23 per cent from 478,000 to 586,000. Cars went up from

121,000 to 172,000 (a 42 per cent growth) and lorries from 47,000 to 63,000 (up 33 per cent).

There is no doubt that Le Havre has been assuming greater importance as a ferry port although the port authorities think that present road communications are inadequate for the volume of traffic passing through the three existing car terminals.

Two roll-on, roll-off terminals have just been added and there are plans for another five car terminals. This year will see the introduction of a sideways loading facility. Unfortunately the area is not served well by motorways to the Low Countries and the north of France.

M. Bastard said no links with the north had been planned so far but they were bringing pressure to bear for an estuary road through Barentin, Le Havre, Rouen, Antwerp and on to Rotterdam. He thought this would also bring a new surge of industrial development.

Rouen: cereal exports may ease industrial worries

by Richard Wigg

More than 8,000 Simca cars wait in improvised parking lots just outside Dieppe instead of being shipped weeks ago to their intended destination, Britain. They are the obvious victims of the energy crisis.

The car industry, for years hailed as the pilot sector of France's dynamic industrialization effort, is located up much of the valley of the Seine; and its present difficulties, if they arrived in France somewhat later than elsewhere in Europe, cast a gloomy shadow over the industrial scene of Normandy.

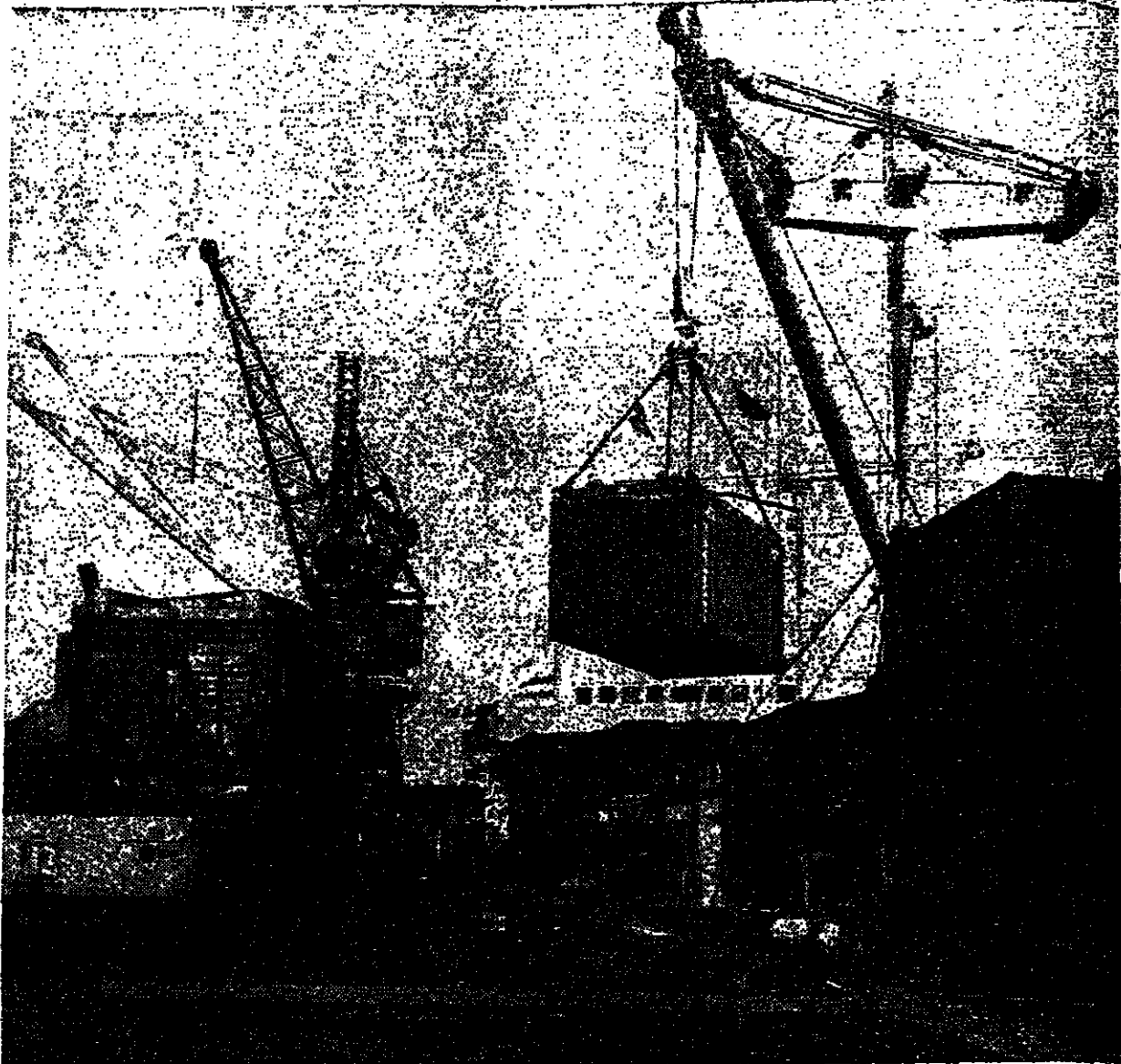
But at the port of Rouen arrangements have just been concluded for 3,000 Fiat small cars, coming by rail from Italy, to be embarked in a Japanese vessel bound for Baltimore. This will be a record cargo of cars in a single ship to leave the Normandie centre maritime, the vehicle import export centre just up river from Rouen, chosen by the Italian firm because of its facilities.

The picture of stranded cars on the one hand and new car exports moving ahead on the other illustrates well the confused and even contradictory situation which faces much of the industrial region of Normandy centred on Rouen and its port, a microcosm of a French economy endeavouring to absorb the combined effects of the energy crisis and higher raw material prices.

Upper Normandy ranks sixth, after Paris, Nord, Rhône-Alpes, Lorraine and Alsace, among France's exporting regions, accounting for 5 per cent of the total value. But the breakdown shows that if the automobile sector is important, contributing 18.3 per cent of the region's total exports, agriculture, processed agricultural products and foodstuffs, taken together, account for more than 26 per cent.

Reflecting the presence of many of France's principal chemical enterprises in the region, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and rubber products last year constituted the area's most important category with over 21 per cent of the total. Machinery and machine tools accounted for 7 per cent, whereas textiles, whose many small firms were once important in the area, fell to 3 per cent.

That does not prevent one local firm producing high quality woolen goods from sending 63 per cent of its production abroad. Rouen is the first port of France to export goods, which totalled 2,212,000 tons last year, essentially because of



At Rouen, Normandy's inland port, agricultural goods account for at least 40 per cent of all traffic.

its geographical proximity to France's chief producing regions. Agricultural goods account for at least 40 per cent of all traffic passing through Rouen, giving the port a distinctive character compared to Le Havre, or Fos-Marseille, which is heavily dependent on a single commodity, petroleum.

The Rouen port authorities are obviously relying on the prospect of continuing world deficiencies of food production to give a boost to this sector's exports. This should help to offset the inevitable fall in car exports as French agricultural prices, hitherto subsidised by the EEC, become more competitive on world markets. Plans to expand the port's silo capacity for cereals of 200,000 tonnes by 50 per cent are to go ahead, with completion planned for next year or early 1976.

The opening of the Suez Canal, calculated to bring about an increase of one third in the world's shipping capacity, will, it is hoped, improve shipping freight rates and the chances of this inland port.

Rouen's port offers only one indicator of the economic mood of the region, which in general terms is best described as uncertain; or, as a spokesman of one of the region's leading chemical concerns, Rhône-Progil, graphically put it: "You could say we are just navigating ahead."

Rhône-Progil, a subsidiary of Rhône-Poulenc, produces fertilisers, basic chemicals, and plastic materials, and reckons to export 25 to 30 per cent of its annual turnover.

The French chemicals industry has been able to pass on to the consumer its raw material price increases, which have ranged between

50 per cent and 70 per cent last year. As in industry generally in the region, the first six months of 1974 promise to turn out well for Rhône-Progil as consumers pursue a policy of stocking up in gloomy anticipation of even higher raw material prices.

The second half of the year depends on two major uncertainties: whether a sufficient number of industrial clients will be able to maintain their volume of purchases at higher prices; and the outcome of the French presidential elections.

Exporting companies in the region are frankly sceptical about the Government's campaign to stimulate exports and save energy to meet the crisis. None of the measures so far is judged a sufficient stimulus; the impression is widespread that a company would do better to wait until the authorities produce financially more enticing measures—as they will have to, is felt.

The government calls for a rush in and conquer new untapped markets in Arab countries also tends to be looked at with a certain scepticism. The head of one shipping agency told that some vessels had to wait up to three weeks as Algerian port unloading facilities were more than saturated.

Since the effects for the economy have not begun to work through, the overriding impression in the corner of Normandy is absence of planning and measures to combat the crisis. A top executive one Rouen concern said frankly: "I believe the people still go on doing the business with thoughtless inertia unchanged. They are waking up as if from a drug next autumn when the hard facts begin to surface."

Dunkirk and Calais: major bridgehead for Britain

by Margot Lyon

Dunkirk believes it has the double advantage of lying on the world's busiest sea lane and also on the edge of the vast industrial complex that stretches from the Scheldt to Lausanne. But the omnipotent Paris planners were slow to foster the port's potential, and for several years Dunkirk was affected by the difficulties the coal and textile industries of its hinterland.

The port's expansion began with the general movement of heavy industries towards the sea. By 1963 Usinor had established itself in a new western harbour for the firm, and began to process ores alongside their unloading point. The plant now stretches over 1,100 acres and includes four blast furnaces capable of producing 20,000 tons of steel a day.

Only two others exist of the size of the fourth furnace. In Tokyo and Duisburg. Apart from the furnaces and the accompanying steel works and hot rolling mills, Usinor has a second, 600-acre site, where the Mardick cold mill produces rolled sheet iron and tinplate.

Transit traffic has grown enormously

Usinor's presence undoubtedly encouraged other firms to settle in Dunkirk. British Petroleum was already established: Vallourec set up a welded tube plant, the Electricité de France built a 500 MW generator; the Creusot-Loire steelworks, the Lesieur edible oil plant, Air Liquide (the equivalent of British Oxygen), are now all in the area and the transit traffic has also grown enormously, so that last year the gross turnover totalled 31,500,000 tons.

A modern and complex infrastructure has developed to meet the growing needs. The French Government now helps generously in the context of its development aid for the Nord-Pas de Calais region, and also through the 1965 law that gave six of France's ports a brief to expand, backed by state subsidies.

Dunkirk is now France's third biggest port after Marseilles and Le Havre. It is the leading import centre for the coal and iron ore of France, Lorraine and also France's eastern neighbours with iron ores, phosphates and coal. Partly by design, the traffic is divided into three main categories of roughly equal proportions: ores, crude oil and general goods.

The exchanges in the last category are mainly with Britain, Dunkirk's chief client. Most passenger traffic

goes through Calais, but Dunkirk handles a wide variety of freight, ranging from cars and household goods to heavy industrial equipment (including Dunkirk-made oil rigs) and above all, fruit and vegetables from France, Spain and Italy.

Since 1968 container traffic has progressed so rapidly that it speaks by leaps and bounds, and Dunkirk was already proud of its roll-on/roll-off and lift-on/lift-off services. The port handling agents also claim they could achieve a swifter turnover if Dover, in particular, could deal with goods as fast as Dunkirk could send them.

The port intends to continue growing until it achieves at least a 75 million ton turnover by 1980. Its present capacity will be dwarfed by the new £7m extension programme, whose first part should be completed next year when a new 10,000 acre area will be ready for service, with another 10,000 acres reserved for development in the next 15 years. The new western sector is to be a commercial port, an oil port capable of receiving 300,000-ton tankers and an industrial area for big firms such as the Compagnie Française de Raffinage, Ciments Lafarge and the Electricité de France, which is to build a huge nuclear plant capable of producing 10,000 MW.

To date, the western jetty is built and the outer harbour is being dredged of 90 million cu metres of sand (more than the Suez Canal, it was told). The new tidal dock will rival Antwerp and Rotterdam in that it will give direct maritime access without locks and without a long congested estuary to navigate; indeed the deep water channels close to the coast offer safety and speed.

The port authorities admit there is no inland waterway to compare with the Scheldt or the Rhine, but the new wide-gauge canal that will be a link with Belgium through Valenciennes will be capable of taking barges up to 3,600 tons; and there are now efficient new motorways and rail links with the rest of France and with Belgium, Germany and Switzerland.

So Dunkirk can offer speed, a skilled local labour force—and space. The state planners have judged that these offer enough built-in attractions for Dunkirk to sell itself. Land is not cheap, and there are fewer tax incentives for new firms than across the frontier in Belgium. So far, most of the foreign firms are medium-sized, and British. America is notably absent, except for Union Carbide in Calais.

Courtaulds and almost a dozen others settled in Calais in the 1960s, and about 10 more have arrived since British entry into the EEC.

Shoreline development is possible along the full 40km between Dunkirk and Calais and plans exist to industrialize the whole coastline by the end of the century. "There is to be a *marriage de raison* between us and Dunkirk", it was told in Calais, without enthusiasm. Nobody in Dunkirk itself had mentioned it.

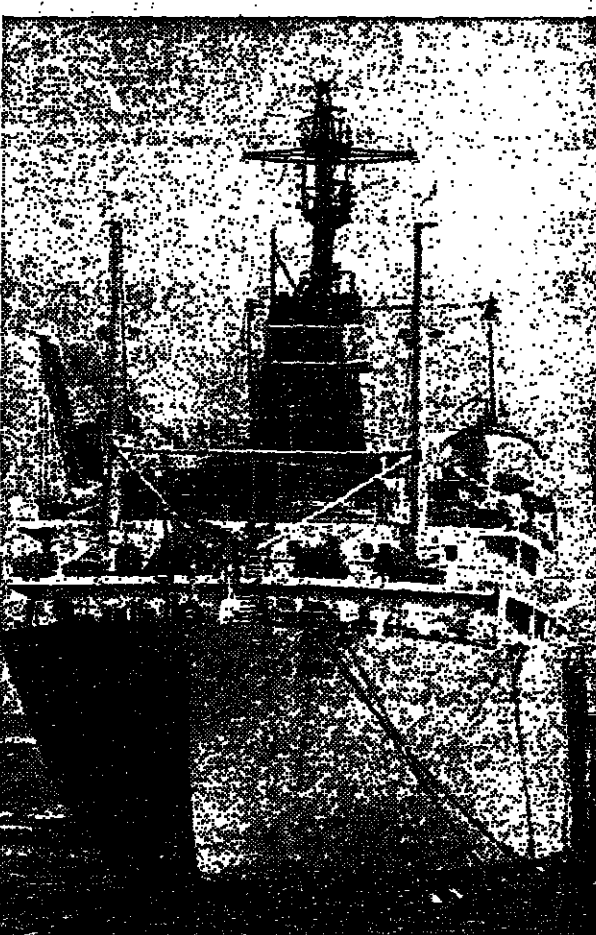
At present Calais is clearly dominated by her neighbour. The town attracts smaller, cleaner industries, gets the British passenger traffic, has a tourist future and is more residential. But so far it has no motorway to Paris and poor road and rail links with Dunkirk itself. A mixed Study-Syndicat was set up in 1972 to harmonize planning between the two towns but it may not achieve much until Calais has secured her trump card, the Channel Tunnel.

Daunted by present price rises

So far the tunnel is merely a hole in the ground of Sangeatte village—the boring scheduled in phase two of the tunnel agreement. If it is to open in 1980 Calais might be expected to have sold a good part of her stretch of the coast already to eager industries; but this has not so far happened. Perhaps this is because Calais is waiting to be certain the tunnel will be built on schedule; perhaps because the Government has spent vast sums recently on the north; perhaps because everyone is daunted by the present overall price rises. Uncertainty is in the air and Calais expects no dramatic change in her life style just yet.

As for Dunkirk, the port authorities acknowledge that the tunnel would probably mean death to the traditional car ferries and to the small miscellaneous container traffic. They admit it would mean fast journeys and all-weather use. But they say the tunnel would not be geared to deal with the heaviest freight, and should not disturb the bulk of the dock's non-British business in ores, coal and crude oil. They see the tunnel as a stimulus for the whole region that may cause them occasional headaches but is nothing compared with their underlying fears of trouble over supplies of raw materials.

Supposing Britain withdrew from the Community? "In or out of the EEC, with or without the tunnel," they told us, "Britain will want to trade with the Continent, and the Dunkirk-Calais complex is the obvious bridgehead of natural market forces they know they are facing."

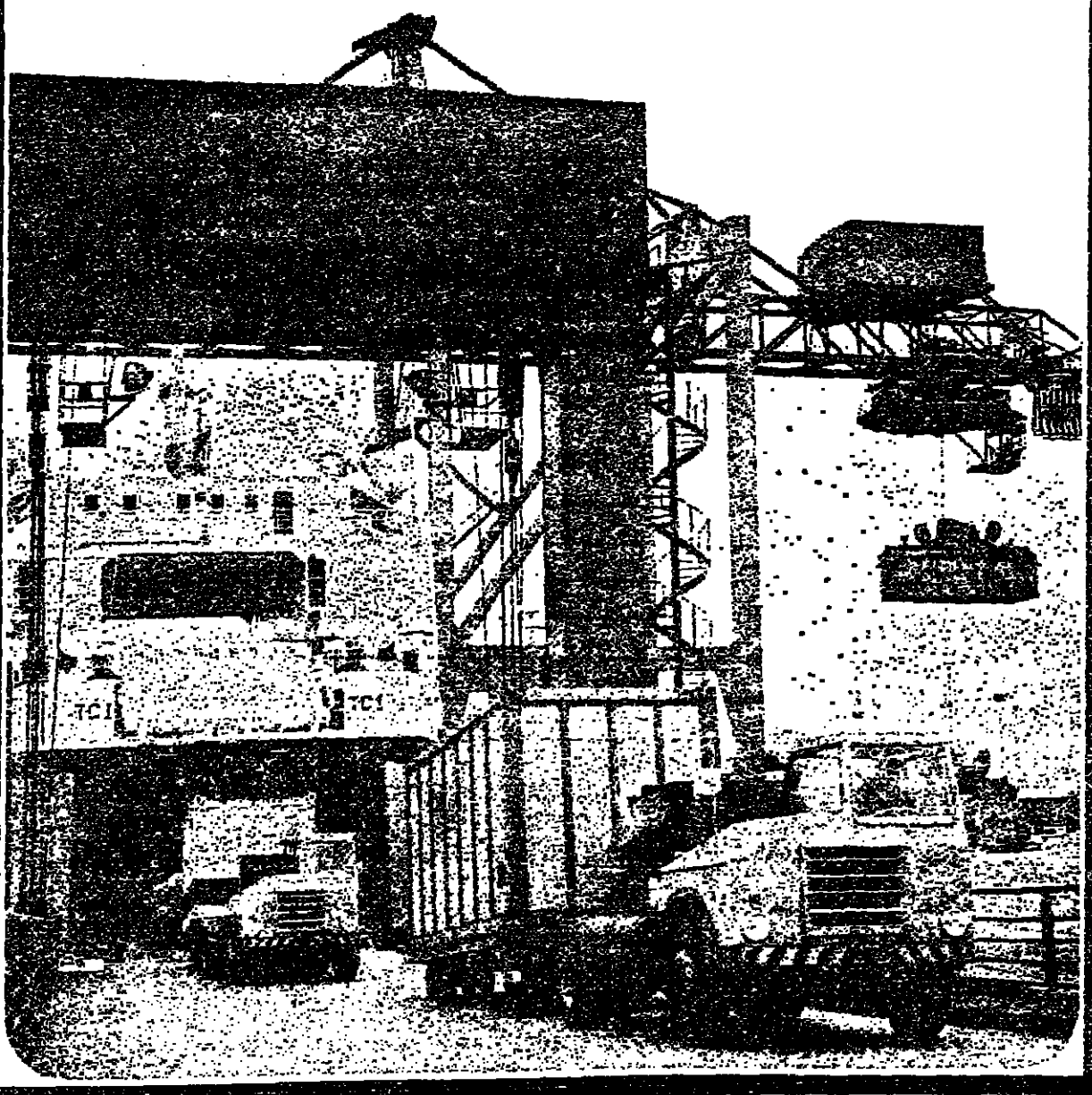


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C.F.

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SILLY STRIKE

ality marked the finish of engineering union's lightning strike. The days of the National Industrial Relations Court are over—barring, parliament, accidents, which are by no means impossible—and the law is applied as it is intended to be. That does not affect law, which it necessarily and lawfully discharges, of applying law as it is still and enforcing its orders. But its death bed does give an air of unity to the proceedings. And does the obsession of the engineering union which causes it to into a full-blooded strike in a body of law which is within weeks of obliteration from the statute book. The final unreality came with action of an anonymous donor paid into court a sum sufficient to discharge the judgment and costs incurred by the union. The intervention was, as John Donaldson said, a "velvet". But he was right to say it in satisfaction of the law. When a party seeks compensation from another party through a court, the primary duty of the court, if it concludes

that compensation is owing, is to ensure that the first party receives its due. Usually there is only one source from which compensation can come, the other party to the suit; but if another source offers itself well and good, since the making of the party which the court finds against is a secondary consideration, if it is properly a separate consideration at all. In this case, there was the further question of the union's contempt of court, but the NIRC evidently concluded that in view of its present expectation of life its authority would be sufficiently vindicated if it ensured that those who had been awarded compensation were paid, and that no useful purpose would be served by pursuing the union further for contempt. That shows good sense on the part of the court. It would be nice to think that these are the last convulsions, or almost the last, of a period that has been bad both for industrial relations and for the law as a social mechanism—and to think that a happier chapter is opening. That is the impression that the Government seeks to imprint on people's minds by its talk of a new social compact between

government and organized labour. The vision looks a bit blurred after Mr. Scamilton's sudden dash for anarchy; and after the union's flat rejection of the advice urged upon it by Mr. Michael Foot, who is the Prospero of this vision. But something survives. Early burial of the Industrial Relations Act, and all its works was an essential element in the new arrangements, and it is possible to regard this week's relapse as a hangover from the past, not to recur when the burial has been completed. If so there is some hope left for the policy of moderating the rate of inflation by winning the active cooperation of trade union leadership by the Government's means. Against that, the engineers' strike must be seen as a stark reminder of the power that some unions possess and are quick to use in ruthless pursuit of narrowly conceived self-interest, reckless of the consequences for particular firms, and therefore for particular groups of the union's members, and reckless of the wider interests of the nation. A change of government and change of policy have not altered the dimensions of this challenge to the economic and social order.

Corruption in public affairs

From Mr F. H. Tate
Sir, To expose corruption in public affairs is one thing; it ought to be done ruthlessly and without fear or favour. But the present apparent obsession by all the media with "scandals in public life" seems to be leading to turning over stones and then magnifying and even distorting what is found underneath. This in its turn could lead to an unwarranted impression, especially by those millions who absorb headlines only, that the whole of our parliamentary and local government systems are riddled with malpractice. In fact, surely Westminster and the Town Hall are still models to the rest of the world of fine public service by people, the great majority of whom are devoted to doing what they believe to be right for the country or their locality. Let us beware of fostering so much disillusion, suspicion and contempt that the present institutions will be supplanted by something far more sinister and dangerous. Yours faithfully, F. H. TATE, High House, Hook Heath, Woking, Surrey, May 7.

From Mr Leslie James
Sir, The action of Mr Short in accepting £250 from Mr T. Dan Smith raises the important question, what is the crucial test for those in public service the acceptability of gratitudes?

In the Metropolitan Police, in which I served some years ago, the test was, and I hope still is, that acceptance had to be approved officially, and in writing by one's superior officer, and acceptance was never approved if there was the least suspicion of venality. If permission were given, the acceptance could never be impugned. It had been made public and official.

Is not this test of official approval one to which all government servants should submit and does not a request for confidentiality inevitably discredit a gratuity from the outset? Yours faithfully, LESLIE JAMES, The Mount, 169 Derby Road, Cheltenham, Glos., May 6.

From Dr L. S. Horsley and Dr A. Horsley

Sir, In a speech on Sunday, Harold Wilson sought to discredit Tory backbenchers by accusing them of creating a Muckraking Parliament. He should know that in its origins the term "muckraking" described a tradition of American journalism responsible for progressive reforms. It was committed to the exposure of trusts and monopolies and of corruption in city and national government; the Muckrakers, among them many of the most distinguished American writers and scholars, were regarded as the conscience of the nation and given considerable credit for the salvation of political and economic democracy in the United States. In the light of recent events, many will think that this courageous and

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The development of North Sea oil

From Professor Alan Thompson
Sir, The Prime Minister's assurance, in his speech on May 5, that oil development would not be "at the expense of the Scottish countryside" will be greatly welcomed in planning and amenity circles in Scotland. There was grave concern at the Drumbule Inquiry that the evidence given by the DTI (later the Department of Energy) was based largely on the views of the contractors, and gave inadequate attention to total planning requirements, environmental factors, the cost of infrastructure and coordination with the work of the local authority.

The developers are, admittedly, bound to consider environmental factors. Indeed, they may put themselves at a disadvantage with competitors if they spend too much money on environmental planning. It is precisely because of this fact that a government department should include these considerations in its brief.

My own view is that Drumbule will reveal three major needs. First, we should have a master plan (in the form of a written policy statement) for on-shore oil developments, involving a much wider range of planning considerations than those presented to the Drumbule Inquiry by the developers and by the DTI. Secondly, this plan must be firmly in the hands of the Scottish Office and not Whitehall. It is reassuring that this point was made in a clear and forthright statement by Mr William Ross shortly after taking office.

Thirdly, we need a better system of public participation. Between the first nibble made by the developers who want to acquire a site, and the bite of the formal application, citizens and communities whose future is affected must be brought into the picture.

The overwhelming lesson of Drumbule, however, is that the inquiry system should not be abolished, although it should be improved, streamlined and made more efficient.

Shared schools in Ulster

From Professor D. J. Anderson
Sir, It is any hope for Northern Ireland that the reaction to proposals for Protestant and Catholic school sharing, reported in *The Times* on May 7. A Catholic diocesan official expressed doubts attributed by him to the "Catholic conscience on education" which presumably is a great deal sharper than the Catholic conscience of other matters of public concern in the province.

Having been brought up as a Catholic and still clinging desperately to a kind of Catholicism in spite of many of my coreligionists and other fellow Christians in Northern Ireland, I must ask what clear benefit can be shown to derive from education in what is commonly called "a Catholic atmosphere"? Parishes up and down the land are burdened with the cost of Catholic schools within the state system and individuals pay for their children to go to Catholic private and public schools because they are told that it is their duty. But I suggest that the record of Catholic schools measured in terms of numbers of those who abandon Catholicism after leaving school is poor, and I believe that this is true even among Catholic boarding schools where the Catholic atmosphere has the best possible opportunity of permeating the developing mind. The figures may be available, or would not be difficult to obtain.

What about the record of Catholic schools in producing Catholics who

though it should be possible to improve its efficiency by streamlining the procedure. Any new legislation must retain some period of public scrutiny, professional cross-examination and impartial judgment.

Drumbule has shown how the most authoritative and impressive-sounding expert evidence can be shaken by detailed public interrogation. The prospect of such interrogation serves to dissuade the experts from cunning corners or adjusting their statistics. Parliament over 25 years of legislation in the field of planning, in making the public inquiry system the central safeguard of the citizens' rights. Any system of compulsory purchase which ignores these rights such as a possible land acquisition bill is a truly frightening prospect.

The adoption of these suggestions could do much to restore Scottish confidence in the impartiality of government and in the possibility of reconciling much-needed oil developments with the maintenance of high planning standards. No one can dispute the valuable contribution made to the Scottish economy by oil companies and by enterprising businessmen who perform valuable services in the pipeline and storage refineries and repairs and servicing.

It is essential that they retain the good will of the Scottish people by avoiding planning guide lines which avoid environmental and social disruption, and accept direction to sites away from the uniquely beautiful areas to which the Prime Minister referred.

Restriction in the choice of sites may involve them in modification in design and some increase in costs but in view of the large sums of money involved in oil, these difficulties are not insurmountable.

Yours faithfully, ALAN THOMPSON, 11 Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh 9, May 6.

are also real Christians? Are the products of Northern Irish Catholic schools significantly different from those of non-Catholic schools by any yardstick? There is no evidence that they are significantly more eager to forgive those who trespass against them, more tolerant, honest, otherworldly, gentle, humble; even that they are less blood-thirsty than others. If there is a sectarian murder, an event we now accept, although it ought to be unthinkable among Christian neighbours, is the group educated in a Catholic atmosphere more reluctant than any other to reach for the avenging gun, or are their leaders more anxious to denounce such horrors?

Yet as though still in another age, Catholic religious leaders continue to urge segregated education on their flock. Do they really fear that Catholic children brought up side by side with Presbyterians or whatever, will be infected with some deadly heresy when in fact they might learn to live together in peace? Meanwhile, parents like myself see our children one after another leaving Catholicism and for Presbyterians but for disillusionment with all brands of official Christianity. Yours faithfully, D. J. ANDERSON, University of Bristol, Department of Physiology (Oral Biology), The Medical School, University Walk, Bristol, May 3.

Subsidies for the arts

From the Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University
Sir, As Chairman of the Bristol Old Vic Trust I was much impressed by the letter you published last week from Mr Patrick Gibson, Chairman of the Arts Council, asking that the Government should give as much help as it can in this extraordinarily difficult time for the arts.

To make no bones about it, the Bristol Old Vic would simply not exist today with a worldwide reputation for its standards of drama had it not been for the enlightened patronage of the Arts Council over the years. The greater part of our income comes from our audiences paying for their seats—as indeed it should—and happily nearly a quarter of a million did so last year. But the subvention we get from the Arts Council enables us to put on dramatic entertainment in our three theatres of a quality which would be quite unattainable without that support.

As indeed they must in our theatres in these difficult times, it is always the quality of the artistic production which suffers most, simply because theatres have to live like everything else. In such circumstances even quite small economies can produce quite disproportionate effects in quality. And once standards have deteriorated, as Mr Gibson so rightly says, they are difficult if not impossible to recover.

Yours faithfully, ALEC MERRISON, Chairman, Bristol Old Vic Trust, The University, Senate House, Bristol.

Pakhtuns in Afghanistan

From Mr Nahi Misdaq
Sir, Your editorial of May 1—"Pakistan means more than Pakhtunistan"—raises many issues. May I as an Afghan be allowed to comment on some of them?

1. Ever since the creation of Pakistan it has been the policy of Afghan governments that Pakistan should be persuaded to agree to a referendum, allowing the people of Pakhtunistan to decide for themselves whether they want (a) to remain with Pakistan, (b) to create an autonomous state, or (c) to join Afghanistan.

2. The United Nations and other independent sources indicate that 64 per cent (not, as you state, 40 per cent) of the Afghan population is Pakhtun. The Pakhtun speakers have always been and still are the major and dominant group in Afghanistan. It is not for numerical reasons, as your leader makes out, that successive Afghan governments have been asking for the right of self-determination for the Pakhtuns of the NWFP.

UROPE IN CRISIS

European Community, a group of industrial nations struggling to survive in a world where energy and raw materials are becoming suddenly and terribly scarce, has been deprived little over two months of three main political leaders. Heath defeated, M Pompidou and Herr Brandt driven to resign by a security scandal: on the face of it the conjunction of these three events should be nothing more than coincidence, smistic though he was in his lining months, M Pompidou did not die of a broken heart. But disarray of the Gaullist party at his death and its crushing defeat in last Sunday's ballot is seen in part at least, like Conservative defeat in this country, as effects of the economic crisis. M Giscard d'Estaing's active success was certainly not to his position as the man responsible for the present government's economic policy, but for his ability to present himself, being a non-Gaullist, as a candidate of a "profound change".

So with Herr Brandt: he has lost himself defeated at the polls. But his party has suffered a series of spectacular losses in recent elections, which were duly blamed on his failure to

give the government a strong lead; and he is known to have been disillusioned and depressed for some months past about the national and international situations. A defeat in the 1976 elections looked increasingly probable. It may be doubted whether he would have felt obliged to resign over the Guillaume affair, against the advice of his party colleagues, if everything else had been going well.

The departure of these three leaders coincides with many other signs that the European Community is disintegrating, the most recent of which is the unilateral introduction of import surcharges by the Italian government last week. Italy's economic and political problems are the most acute in any country of the Community, and for some time at any rate there is most unlikely to be an Italian government strong enough to give a lead in Europe. The new British government might have given a lead, but was too divided about the desirability of belonging to the Community at all to be able to do so.

If the Community is to recover, therefore, the initiative must come from the new West German Chancellor and the new French President. The former will almost certainly be Herr Schmidt,

a man who is known to be quite unsentimental about Europe, who puts German interests first, and believes that those interests are best served by a close understanding with the United States. A man with those views will not find it easy to reach an understanding with any French President, but since those views in any case form the real basis—as opposed to the rhetoric—of all West German foreign policy, it is probably as well that they should be frankly stated.

It might be thought that Herr Schmidt would prefer to have his fellow-socialist Mitterrand in the Elysee. In fact, as a right-wing socialist in a deeply anti-communist country, he views the French Socialist-Communist alliance with suspicion, while on a personal level he gets on better with his fellow finance minister, M Giscard d'Estaing. It may be as well, therefore, that the latter is now the favourite to win the French presidential race. He too is an unsentimental man, and though less "Atlantic" than Herr Schmidt he has no ideological prejudice against the United States. A Giscard-Schmidt axis may yet be the foundation of a pragmatic, unsentimental Europe, in which Britain will perhaps feel more at home.

HERR BRANDT'S UNTARNISHED REPUTATION

Herr Brandt's place in German history will not be diminished by manner of his going. He has nobly accepted responsibility for a mistake to which many people contributed and which only others might have made. In far as he should have taken the reins about his assistant's morose perhaps he was partly victim of his own good nature. He is also, with cruel irony, victim of the very government which he extended the hand of conciliation and for which he opened the door to the United Nations.

Obviously spying does not stop either side when political relations improve, and perhaps it is bad thing for the East Germans to get some accurate information from Bonn to correct the ideological bias of their vision. If they had really cared only about their relations with Herr Brandt they might have considered quietly removing their agent to a position slightly closer to him personally. It revealing that they did not. All the same, it is impossible to avoid the impression that Herr Brandt was not wholly reluctant to leave a job which had become many ways a burden. He had hived the two historic tasks: to really interested him—the Social Democratic Party back into power for the first time in more than 40 years, and he had wound up the unfinished business of the Second World War by restoring relations with Germany's eastern neighbours. Both achievements earn him a solid place in history comparable with that of Dr Adenauer, who urged the reconciliation with

France and anchored West Germany into the western alliance. Dr Adenauer could not achieve an equivalent reconciliation with his eastern neighbours because public opinion was not ready and because he won public support for the western alliance by holding out the hope that it would achieve the reunification of Germany and the recovery of the lost territories. No east European government could accept this, and the Christian Democrats' attempts at an eastern policy inevitably foundered when they tried to isolate East Germany and to ignore the interests of Moscow.

It was left to Herr Brandt to face the German people with the real consequences of the war, the division of the nation into two states, and the permanent loss of the eastern territories. He did this not only against the emotional reluctance of the older generation but in the teeth of opposition from the Christian Democrats. Only a man with great courage, real feeling for the atrocities committed against the Slav nations, and above all enjoying the full trust of his western allies, could have done it. Herr Brandt did, and by doing so enabled his country to atone at least in part for its history while simultaneously freeing east-west diplomacy from the paralyzing constraints of the German question, thereby making possible the whole complex of negotiations now in progress.

None of this is diminished by the fact that some of the hopes that accompanied this policy have not been fulfilled. Just as Dr Adenauer suggested that his policies would bring reunification, Herr Brandt raised hopes

that the recognition of East Germany would ease human contacts between Germans of both states. There has been some progress but not as much as some people expected, and the disappointment has contributed to the declining popularity of the party. But no other policy could have achieved more, and the long-term results remain to be seen. There have been other disappointments. Herr Brandt has not been at home with domestic problems. Inflation has imposed severe stresses, though West Germany has coped with them better than most countries, and the left wing of the party has been slipping into the hands of naive theoreticians who have alienated not only floating voters but many of the party faithful. For Herr Brandt the immediate future seemed likely to be dominated by problems with which he is not temperamentally suited to deal—party squabbles, tactical in-fighting, complex economic decisions, divisions in Europe. It would be understandable if he were less than eager to continue.

Tragic though his departure seems at the moment for Germany and for Europe the best consolation is that Herr Brandt may yet be remembered as one of those extremely rare statesmen whose job was done, and done well. He retains the admiration, gratitude and deep affection of top statesmen and ordinary people around the world. He leaves West Germany largely cleansed of guilt and able to play a role appropriate to her strength. This should be enough for any man. But it is still very sad to see him go.

Architects and planners

From Professor Denis Einton and Professor Edgar A. Rose
Sir, Your Planning reporter described (April 23) the joint seminar organized by the RIBA and the RPI. Newcastle as an unusual display of public penitence by two professions not notably addicted to self-criticism. There is a large number of architects and planners about whom the first part of this statement is certainly true. Anyone who has read or listened to official and semi-official statements by these professions during the last decade would realize that public self-criticism has been one of their chief preoccupations. Whether or not the seminar has been altogether beneficial may be open to question. The origins of this concern, however, are entirely understandable. A growing sense of social responsibility, a desire to broaden the scope of the architect's

and planning, and to achieve greater competence have, during this period, been the consistent and sincere objectives of the two institutes and the great majority of their members.

However, their efforts in this direction and the success that has attended them have received less publicity than the small number of cases concerned with incompetence, lack of foresight or professional misconduct, and it is, therefore, doubly unfortunate that further publicity should be drawn by repeated public statements to so-called crises, professional failures and the supposed responsibility of architects and planners for a wide range of social ailments. Such gestures, and particularly their repetition in house journals and other publications, must often give the impression that the professions endorse the view that their ranks are filled by knaves and idiots. Like many other architects and planners are vulnerable professions; but they are also ones in which society is entitled to feel some confidence, and this can easily be eroded by constant self-criticism. Moreover, such a one-sided commentary obscures the fact that throughout the country there are thousands of public and private sectors, who, under great difficulties, are giving their clients and society a conscientious and competent service. They are probably doing more to show the public that their professions have a conscience than those who are continually proclaiming it in print. Yours faithfully, DENYS EINTON, Professor of Architecture, EDGAR A. ROSE, Professor of Planning, The University of Aston, Department of Architectural Planning and Urban Studies, Gosta Green, Birmingham, April 26.

but they are also ones in which society is entitled to feel some confidence, and this can easily be eroded by constant self-criticism. Moreover, such a one-sided commentary obscures the fact that throughout the country there are thousands of public and private sectors, who, under great difficulties, are giving their clients and society a conscientious and competent service. They are probably doing more to show the public that their professions have a conscience than those who are continually proclaiming it in print. Yours faithfully, DENYS EINTON, Professor of Architecture, EDGAR A. ROSE, Professor of Planning, The University of Aston, Department of Architectural Planning and Urban Studies, Gosta Green, Birmingham, April 26.

Return to gold standard

From Mr Edward Holloway
Sir, Mr Rees-Mogg has rendered a service by raising the question of a return to gold. It is a question which has been the subject of the greatest controversy on the proposal to return to the gold standard was at its height. A Treasury memorandum accompanying the Gold Standard Bill summarizing their reasons for accepting gold.

"Whatever its imperfections, gold for centuries commanded the confidence of the civilized world and has continued to command it. If the gold standard fails to give complete stability, its adoption is nevertheless the most simple and direct method of obtaining a high degree of stability."

Winston Churchill, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, expressed doubts as to the wisdom of a return to gold. Keynes and McKenna advocated managed money as an alternative to the combined evils of the Montagu Norman, Otto Niemeyer and others proved too strong. Britain returned to gold at the prewar parity on April 28, 1925.

But the "high degree of stability" which the supporters of the gold standard envisaged proved illusory. The deflation which followed proved disastrous, leading to the General Strike of 1926, the spectre of poverty in the midst of plenty, and a total of three million unemployed by 1930. The effects of the poisoning of industrial relations which direct took place remain with us to this day.

In the House of Commons on April 21, 1932, Winston Churchill, in the Budget debate, referred to the arguments and forces which

Retired civil servants

From Mr Frank Logan
Sir, The issues raised by Sir William Armstrong's acceptance of an appointment with the Midland Bank three months after his retirement from the public service deserve fuller discussion than they have yet received.

If this appointment is allowed to go through, it is difficult to see any grounds on which senior civil servants could in future be refused permission to take up lucrative business appointments on or soon after retirement. At a time of declining standards in public life, it is vital that those at the top of the civil service should not be able to give absolute unbiased advice to their Ministers but that they should be seen, as far as this can be arranged, to be under no temptation to do otherwise. This is infinitely more important than the temporary availability of a retiring civil servant's expertise to the business world.

The present rule that requires civil servants wishing to take up such appointments within two years of retirement to obtain the consent of the Minister concerned is wholly inadequate. At the very least there should be a suitable committee, perhaps presided over by a senior Privy Counsellor not a member of the

had led to the return to gold in 1925. He said: "Are we really going to accept the position that the whole future development of science, our organization, our increasing cooperation and the fruitful era of peace which alone will bring about the good will among men and nations; are all these developments to be arbitrarily barred by the price of gold? Is the progress of the human race in this age of almost terrifying expansion to be arbitrarily based and regulated by fortuitous discoveries of gold mines here and there or by the extent to which we can persuade the existing cornerers and hoarders of gold to put their hoards again into the common stock? Are we to be told that human civilization and society would have been impossible if gold had not happened to be an element in the composition of the globe?"

Mr Rees-Mogg's argument that a gold base for money supplies a necessary discipline on the structure of credit is undoubtedly true. But need we have recourse to such an arbitrary discipline which is unrelated to the needs of the economy? Surely reality and stability demand that money should not be related to one commodity—gold—but to a wide range of commodities. As long ago as 1920 Irving Fisher proposed that the United States should adopt a "commodity dollar" since then there have been many advocates of this idea. Instead of going back to a gold standard, we should be moving forward to a commodity standard, with money based on the goods and services which alone give money its value. Yours faithfully, EDWARD HOLLOWAY, Secretary, Economic Research Council, 10 Upper Berkeley Street, W1, May 6.

Government of the day, to consider and advise on such cases. Yours faithfully, FRANK LOGAN, As from Rusham End, Shalford, Surrey.

Inter-City tea

From Mr Clancy Sigal
Sir, As a frequent traveller on Inter-City, I now note that tops are no longer given with plastic cups of tea sold in the buffet. This forces the traveller to have his tea in a usually crowded buffet or scolding fellow-passengers on the risky route back to his own car.

All the buffet-attendants I've spoken to are deeply apologetic and blame a recent administrative instruction. They call it berry. Agreed. British Rail cannot plausibly plead a shortage of these plastic tops since tea-shops continue to supply them.

I sometimes think British Rail should employ a little man in a dark office to think up ways of torturing its passengers. He's at it again. Yours etc, CLANCY SIGAL, 19 Wigmore Street, W1, May 6.

Ink with everything

From the Director of the Society of British Printing Ink Manufacturers
Sir, Everyone engaged in the printing industry is familiar with justifiable complaints about the quality of ink off from newspapers but the novel suggestion by Vice Admiral Sir David Cullinback (May 3) that the ink actually "offsets" on to hot fish, offers intriguing possibilities to the creative mind.

Does it not suggest, for example, a more convenient and palatable way in which politicians and economic journalists might be induced to eat their words? Is there the prospect of a new art form arising, as enterprising fish-friers produce, from pages of your more popular contemporaries, pieces of hot cod as sought after as Pirelli calendars—and for similar reasons? Shall we see the makers of printing inks—a hitherto respectable enough body of men—entering the advertising lists to make wild claims about added vitamins, subtracted calories and a subtle hint of vinegar?

Alas for fantasy! The prosaic fact is that food must be wrapped with wrapping material on which the printing is on the outside of the wrapper and for which the ink has been specifically formulated with non-toxic materials. Food for thought must be separated from food for body thus avoiding any possibility of contamination.

Makers of serious inks do give continuing and serious thought to the problem of rub-off and indeed, many local newspapers no longer rub off in this way at all. As far as the national press is concerned, however, it is economic difficulties rather than technical ones which stand in the way of radical improvement at the present time. To produce something better would be easy but to produce it at the same price is impossible. It is a sad truth that whilst the British public is prepared to pay a great deal for its fish and chips, it is nowhere near as ready to pay more for its newspapers. There's the rub!

Yours faithfully, C. R. NORTH-LEWIS, Director, Society of British Printing Ink Manufacturers, Sardinia House, 52 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.

KHRUSHCHEV MEMOIRS

High opinion of Kennedy: 'both my partner and my adversary'

(With authorisation of Time Magazine, exclusive to The Times.)

We had little knowledge of John Kennedy. He was a young man, very promising, and very rich—a millionaire. We knew from the press that he was distinguished by his intelligence, his education, and his political skill. I'd met him once, during my visit to Washington, when the Committee on Foreign Relations gave a reception in my honour. However, we knew (Adlai) Stevenson better, and his would have been the most acceptable candidacy as far as we were concerned (in the 1960 presidential election). But he had already been nominated for President twice and defeated twice: the Democrats didn't want to risk a third time. They decided to bet on Kennedy instead.

The battle between the two parties began. The Americans are very good at making you think a huge struggle over major issues is under way, a struggle which will determine whether the United States will continue to exist or not. But in essence the battle between the Democrats and Republicans is like a circus wrestling match. The wrestlers arrange in advance who will be the winner and who will be the loser—before they even enter the arena. Of course, I'm not saying that the outcome of an American election is actually pre-arranged by the two candidates, but they're both representatives of the capitalist circles which nominate them; and everyone knows that the foundation of capitalism will not be shaken, regardless of which candidate is elected. The President is elected by working people, but as we see it, he conducts a policy which is compatible with working-class interests. The President supports the bourgeoisie and big monopolistic capital. That would have been true of Stevenson, as well as Kennedy and Nixon.

Still, once the Republicans had nominated Nixon and the Democrats had nominated Kennedy, we had to make a choice in our own minds. We thought we would have more hope of improving Soviet-American relations if John Kennedy were

in the White House. We knew we could not count on Nixon in this regard: his aggressive attitude toward the Soviet Union, his anti-Communism, his connexion with McCarthyism—all this was well known to us. In short, we had no reason to welcome the prospect of Nixon as President. Therefore we took it very seriously when outgoing President Dwight Eisenhower came out in favour of Nixon, giving speeches in support of his candidacy.

In the heat of the campaign, just before election day, the United States addressed itself to us, officially asking for the release of Francis Gary Powers. The timing of Powers's release had great political significance. At that time voices in the press were saying that whichever candidate could show himself more able to improve Soviet-American relations stood a better chance in the election.

'We wanted to establish contacts with Kennedy because we shared his fear of war. I certainly was afraid of war. Who but a fool isn't? I've got no qualms about coming right out and saying we were afraid of war'

I expressed my opinion to the leadership: "The United States government has asked us to release Powers. Now is not the time to do it because the two presidential candidates are both trying to cash in on an improvement in relations. If we release Powers now it will be to Nixon's advantage. Judging from the press, I think the two candidates are at a stalemate. If we give the slightest boost to Nixon it will be interpreted as an expression of our willingness to see him in the White House. This would be a mistake. If Nixon becomes Presi-

dent, I don't believe he will contribute to an improvement in relations between our countries. Therefore, let's hold off on taking the final step of releasing Powers. As soon as the elections are over we'll hand him over."

My comrades agreed, and we did not release Powers. As it turned out, we'd done the right thing. Kennedy won the election by a majority of only two hundred thousand or so votes (actually 18,550), a negligible margin if you consider the huge population of the United States. The slightest nudge either way would have been decisive.

So Eisenhower left the White House and Kennedy became President. I must say I had no cause for regret once Kennedy became President. It quickly became clear he understood better than Eisenhower that an improvement in relations was the only rational course. Eisenhower had fully appreciated the danger of the Cold War leading to a hot war; he'd told me more than once, "I'm afraid of war, Mr Khrushchev."

Kennedy feared war too. He never told me in so many words, but he seemed determined to do something, to take concrete steps. He knew that war brings impoverishment to a country and disaster to a people, and that a war with the Soviet Union wouldn't be a scroll in the woods—it would be a horrible, bloody war. For the first time the United States would have to fight on its own territory rather than send its soldiers over to fight in Europe. In a war fought with nuclear missiles, the American monopolists, who had profited from wars in the past, would see the economic might of the United States destroyed. Kennedy understood all this very well and wasn't afraid to call things by their own names. Therefore from the beginning, he tried to establish closer contacts with the Soviet Union with an eye to reaching an agreement on disarmament and to avoiding any accidents which might set off a military conflict.

In America the press is very influential, but Kennedy had great influence, too. He was a

flexible President and, unlike Eisenhower, he was his own boss in foreign policy. He hired bright, young, well-educated advisers who were equally flexible. Therefore Kennedy was able to bring the press around in favour of a summit meeting. He let us know he would like to meet with representatives of the Soviet Union. As I've already mentioned, the bourgeois press likes to play up personalities, so American newspapers would always cast it in terms of Kennedy wanting to meet with me personally, the head of our Government.

We, too, wanted to establish contacts with Kennedy because we shared his fear of war. I certainly was afraid of war. Who but a fool isn't? I've got no qualms about coming right out and saying we were afraid of war. That doesn't mean I think we should pay any price to avoid war. Certainly we shouldn't back down at the expense of our self-respect, our authority, and our prestige in the world. On many occasions while I was head of the Government we were confronted with the jealousy and aggressiveness of others toward our position, and we had to counter-attack these forces. By counter-attacking when we did, we won a number of significant moral victories. But these were victories in the Cold War. We managed to avoid a hot war.

Kennedy seemed committed to the same goal. (During our talks in Vienna) Kennedy recognized the need to avoid military conflict. He felt we should sign a formal agreement to the effect that we would adhere to the principles of peaceful co-existence. But what he meant by peaceful co-existence was freezing existing conditions in all countries in so far as their social and political systems were concerned. Well, this concept was completely unacceptable to me, and I told him so.

"Mr President, we too, would like to come to an agreement with you on the principles of peaceful co-existence, but for us, that means agreeing not to use force in solving disputes and not to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries—it does not mean freezing the conditions which prevail in those countries today. The question of a country's sociopolitical system should be decided by that country itself. Some countries are still determining what sort of system is best for them, and we have no business freezing them into one form or another."

"I don't agree," he replied. "We must freeze their systems. Otherwise all sorts of undercover agents can undermine a country's government." Kennedy wanted to maintain

the status quo in the world. In other words, he wanted countries with capitalist systems to remain capitalist, and he wanted us to agree to a guarantee to that effect. This was absolutely unacceptable. I tried to make him see that his was a reactionary position. "Mr President, your proposal smells of the olden days. Let's make a brief excursion into history. There was a time when the United States was a British colony. You had your revolt, achieved victory and became an independent state. You decided on your political system by yourselves. Now take us for example: we, too, rose up in revolution and chose the system under which we now live. According to your proposal, other countries would have had a right to interfere and prop up British rule in the American colonies and tsarism in Russia. In fact, England and France—not to mention some other countries—did wage a war of intervention against the young Soviet state, and you know your history well enough to remember how that ended."

"You see, Mr President, we can't agree with you on freezing the status quo because that would mean depriving people of opportunities to decide their destinies for themselves. We stand for socialism, and you stand for capitalism. Let the other people of the world decide for themselves under what social and political system they will live."

Had John Kennedy realized the implications of the proposal he was making, I don't think he would have suggested freezing internal political systems. He was a highly intelligent President, but here he was defending capitalist tradition—and he wanted us to party to such a thing! Frankly, I was somewhat surprised at him. Therefore I couldn't help using a little irony to mock what he was suggesting. I think even today the Americans still haven't given up the point of view Kennedy set forth to me.

My belief is confirmed by the war which the United States had been waging in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Indeed, the desire of the United States to preserve capitalism and the landlord system in those countries. The peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia are fighting to establish better conditions for working people. We Communists, of course, believe that the best conditions are to be found under the Communist system, under socialism.

What positive conclusions could be drawn from my talks with Kennedy on peaceful co-existence? Most important, he

understood that the first stage of peaceful co-existence was the prevention of war—particularly war between the United States and the Soviet Union. But he wasn't willing to go much beyond the basic point.

'Jacqueline didn't impress me as having that special brilliant beauty that can haunt men, but she was youthful, energetic and pleasant, and I liked her very much. She knew how to make jokes and was, as our people say, quick with her tongue'

We were sitting in a room in Vienna with only our interpreters, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, and Gromyko. I don't remember Kennedy making any inquiries of Rusk, nor do I remember Rusk giving Kennedy any advice. To my mind this meant Kennedy had a good grasp of international issues and was well prepared for the talks. It was quite different from Eisenhower's behaviour in Geneva and Washington, when first John Foster Dulles and then Christian Herter were always prompting him. John Kennedy and I met man to man, as the two principal representatives of our countries. He felt perfectly confident to answer questions and make points on his own. This was to his credit, and he rose in my estimation at once. He was, so to speak, both my partner and my adversary. In so far as we held different positions, he was my adversary, but in so far as we were negotiating with each other and exchanging views, he was my partner whom I treated with great respect.

At one reception Kennedy introduced me to his wife and to his mother. Jacqueline, Kennedy's wife, was a young woman whom the journalists were always describing as a great beauty. She didn't impress me as having that special, brilliant beauty which can haunt men, but she was youthful, energetic, and pleasant, and I liked her very much. She knew how to make jokes and was, as our people say, quick with her tongue. In other words, she had no trouble finding the right word to cut you short if you weren't careful

with her. My own conversation with her consisted of nothing more than small talk, the sort of thing you expect at receptions or during intermissions at the theatre. But even in small talk she demonstrated her intelligence.

As the head of the Soviet delegation, I couldn't care less what sort of wife Kennedy had. If he liked her, that was his business—and good luck to them both. The same was the case with his mother. We knew she was a millionaire, and consequently we had to keep in mind whom we were dealing with at all times. We could smile courteously and shake hands with her, but that didn't change the fact that we were at opposite poles.

It was at one of these receptions or evenings at the theatre that I had my last meeting with Kennedy. I remember he looked not only anxious, but deeply upset. I recall vividly the expression on his face. Looking at him, I couldn't help feeling a bit sorry and somewhat upset myself. I hadn't meant to upset him. I would have liked very much for us to part in a different mood. But there was nothing I could do to help him. The difference in our class positions had prevented us from coming to an agreement—despite all possible efforts on my part. Politics is a merciless business, but that realization did not keep me from feeling sorry for Kennedy.

I knew his enemies, especially aggressive politicians, would take advantage of him and tease him, saying: "See? You wanted to show off your abilities by meeting Khrushchev and sweet-talking him into an agreement. We've always said the Bolsheviks don't understand the soft language of negotiations; they understand only power politics. They tricked you; they gave your nose a good pull. You got a going-over from them, and now you've come back empty-handed and disgraced." That's what I imagined the President expected to hear when he got home.

I felt doubly sorry because that had happened in the Vienna talks aggravated the Cold War. This worried me. If we were thrown back into the Cold War, we would be the ones who would have to pay for it. The Americans would start spending more money on weapons, forcing us to do the same thing, and a new, accelerated arms race would impoverish our budget, reduce our economic potential and lower the standard of living of our people. We knew the pattern only too well from our past experience.

So my meeting with Kennedy came to an end and we said

goodbye to each other in positions, basically, unchanged and the tensions between countries somewhat lessened. Let despite our worries, disappointments it was worth something that we met and exchanged opinions.

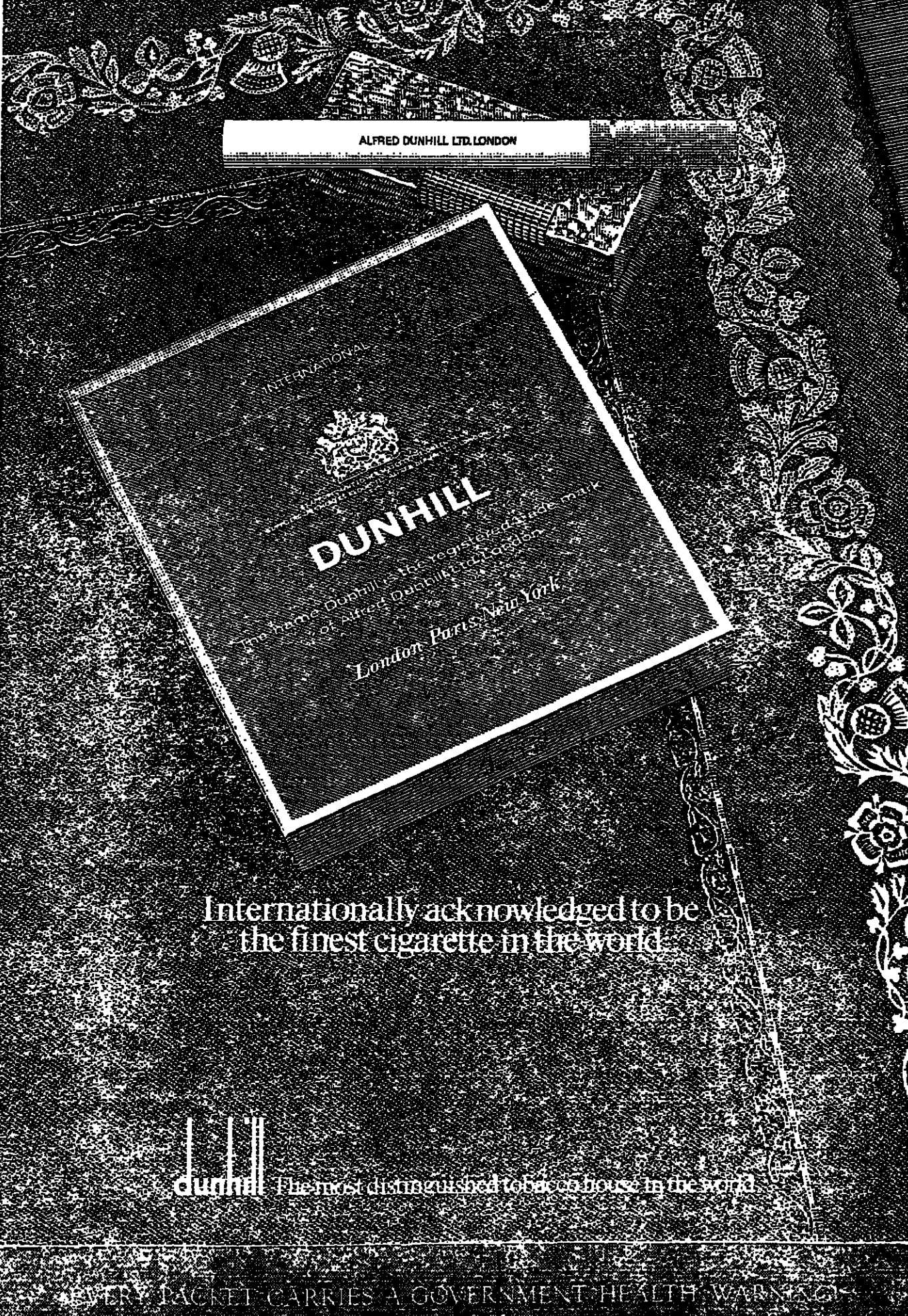
I think that Kennedy more intelligent than the Presidents before him, like my Communist brother and was in possession of pay such compliments to the late President of the United States. To give a man when credit is due entails any whitewashing of social and political system man represents. Kennedy was a capitalist and a representative of the capitalist class, up to the last day of his life. But he understood that socialist camp had gained economic and cultural progress and was in possession of such scientific and technical knowledge, including the art of war—that the United States and its allies could do so seriously consider going to war against us. I'll always remember that.

What kind of man was Kennedy? As regards our grounds, he and I were apart. I was a miner, a fitter, who—by the will of Party and the people—was the Prime Minister of a country. Kennedy was a lionaire and the son of a millionaire. He pursued a goal of strengthening capitalism, while I sought to do capitalism and create a social system based on teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin. As our meeting Vienna demonstrated, we diametrically opposing view many important questions.

Despite the irreconcilable of our class antagonism, Kennedy and I found common ground and a common language when it came to prevent military conflict. During Berlin and Cuban missile crisis, for example, we agreed to establish a direct line of communication between us by diplomatic channels, to be used in case of emergency. Some people may say, "needs it?" I say it may be in handy some day.

I would like to pay my respects to Kennedy, my to opposite number in the conflict which arose between our countries. He showed flexibility and, together, avoided disaster. When he assassinated, I felt sh regret. I went straight to United States embassy expressed my condolences. © Little Brown & Co. I published in this country Andre Deutsch in late sum Tomorrow: Peace and w

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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Super profits' for North Sea oil companies seen by Lord Balogh

Roger Vielvoys, a senior correspondent of the *Financial Times*, has said that the oil reserves of the North Sea are growing so fast that the programme for bringing them on stream could be completed in two years. He said that the oil companies are likely to earn "tremendous, super profits" at current oil prices with a percentage return of between 50 and 70 per cent on investment. Lord Balogh, the Secretary of State for Energy, said that the oil companies are likely to earn "tremendous, super profits" at current oil prices with a percentage return of between 50 and 70 per cent on investment. Lord Balogh's words came in a speech to the House of Commons yesterday, when he was discussing the production and transportation of oil so that they can be put to good use in the country.

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Pensions decision causes angry turmoil

By Margaret Stone
The occupational pensions industry remained in angry turmoil yesterday following Tuesday's decision by Mrs Barbara Castle, Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, to let the State Reserve Scheme, due to come into operation next April, and the recognition tests for occupational pension schemes seeking exemption from it.

Mrs Castle's stand has surprised the occupational pensions industry. Earlier fears that the Government would put pensions legislation back into the melting pot were allayed in the Queen's Speech, when it appeared that Mrs Castle would be prepared to let the Social Security Act, 1973, stand—with the addition of certain, unspecified features she considered essential.

White Paper to detail the Government's own long-term pension proposals. But it seems unlikely that the provisions will be put into operation for at least two to three years.

To the relief of the industry, however, it is clear that there will be a place for occupational pension schemes in the new arrangements. Existing pension schemes which have been modified to meet the needs of the Social Security Act will presumably continue on those lines for the time being.

British Leyland plan £180m expansion for Rover-Triumph

By Clifford Webb
British Leyland are giving priority to the expansion of their profitable Rover-Triumph executive and sports car division. In a major reassessment of their £500m investment plans a number of projects have been put back, but no less than £180m has been earmarked for Rover-Triumph over the next three years.

The labour force of 32,000 produces some 200,000 cars a year, although there is nominal capacity for 280,000. The intention is to double production with a minimal addition to the pay roll. It is expected that only 2,000 more workers will be required for the new Rover factory at Solihull which will have three assembly lines and a capacity of 3,000 cars a week.

Although there is no official confirmation the plan for Rover-Triumph seems to call for the Coventry factories to concentrate on engines, gearboxes and saloons while complete sports cars will be assembled at Solihull.

Although some publicity has been given to the new Solihull factory the extent of the project and its implications for British Leyland profits have not been generally appreciated.

Fears that demand for cars over 1 litre would fall sharply due to soaring petrol prices have not materialized. There is growing evidence to suggest that the Rover-Triumph range of executive cars has benefited from a movement down the market from larger, high powered prestige cars.

Rover-Triumph are already the biggest profit earners in British Leyland—some sources suggest that they account for one third of group profits. But the best selling Rover 2200 is based on a 10 years old design and cannot hold its place in the market for much longer.

Given the imperus of new models in the pipeline and much increased production capacity they could substantially improve their share of the market and make further inroads into Europe.

The present model lineup is being drastically reduced. By 1978 the intention is to have four basic models—two sports cars and two executive saloons—with the usual variants.

At Rover some £50m worth of expansion is envisaged at Solihull and supply factories in Birmingham and Cardiff. The bulk of this money has already been committed but only a relatively small amount has actually been spent at this point in time.

The present model lineup is being drastically reduced. By 1978 the intention is to have four basic models—two sports cars and two executive saloons—with the usual variants.

ENI signs £400m Soviet factory deal

Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI) announced yesterday that it had signed an agreement to supply the Soviet Union with six petrochemical factories and approximately 24 heavy-duty gas pumping stations. The Italian state concern declined to put a value on the contract, but industrial sources said it could reach more than 600,000 lire (about £400m).—AP-Dow Jones.

Strong recovery in gilts and equities

The withdrawal of the strike call by the engineering union brought a strong rally in both gilts and equities yesterday. Industrial shares rose to losses suffered the day before. The *Financial Times* index, down to 295.1 on Tuesday, finished at 303.0 yesterday. The *Times* index recovered from 117.9 to 119.79. A feature was the fall in gold shares.

Rally after Triumph fall to 5½p

By Our Financial Staff
Triumph Investment Trust, one of the largest "fringe" financial groups, saw its shares collapse yesterday morning to 5½p, before a reassuring company statement prompted a rally to 11p for a 2p fall on the day. At this level Triumph is capitalized at £6.24m compared with £70m last year when the shares touched 124p.

Brooke Bond make £10.9m bid

By Our Financial Staff
Brooke Bond Limited yesterday announced a £10.9m bid for Baxters, the Northampton-based butchery business. Such an offer, which values Baxters at 136p a share, appears to have been widely expected in the stock market, where Baxters' shares were trading at around 82p immediately before the announcement, compared with a price of only 68p a week ago.

20 pc drop in societies' mortgages in a year

By Margaret Stone
There was a 20 per cent drop in the number of mortgages granted last year by the building society movement. Advances were made available to 545,000 homebuyers in 1973 compared with 681,000 in 1972.

EEC Commission accepts Italian economic and trade measures

From Roger Berthoud
The EEC Commission has accepted the Italian Government's foreign and agricultural measures in Brussels yesterday. The Commission's decision was a significant step towards the implementation of the Community's economic and trade measures to correct its balance of payments crisis.

Although there was general sympathy for Italy's economic plight, the ministers were divided over how the Community should act. Characteristically, M. Michel Joubert, the French Foreign Minister, made a strong case for the Community to take the lead in the supervision of the Commission, which is reserving the right to rescind them if they cease to be necessary.

Such fine legal points are likely to prove of less importance than the reactions of West German farmers if their produce is to be sold in Italy. In long queues of lorries at Italian customs officials grapple with the new paperwork.

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Perhaps you're like millions of men and women today who make a more than decent living, yet who have little or no capital, either for later life or to leave to their family after their death.

If so—and if it sometimes worries you that it is so—you could benefit from reading, 'A Unique Method of Converting Income into Capital'. It's a booklet describing a well-proved and profitable LONDON LIFE system that offers

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Thomsons see bright future despite difficulty

While the immediate outlook is difficult and made more so by the increases in taxation announced in the Budget, the joint chairman of the Thomson Organisation, Lord Thomson, said that the company's future is bright. He said that the company's future is bright. He said that the company's future is bright. He said that the company's future is bright.

Cement chiefs to meet on cuts in price rises

The Cement Makers' Federation decided yesterday to meet next Wednesday on the Price Commission's offer cutting back price rises. Members want to see how far the commission will reduce price rises from Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers.

Drug colour 'cannot be trade mark'

Colours applied to drug capsules and pellets cannot be registered as trade marks, the Appeal Court ruled yesterday in a case involving Smith, Kline and French Laboratories, who were granted leave to appeal.

Growth in bank lending to industry remains sluggish

By Ian Marston
Financial Correspondent
Banking figures for the four weeks to April 17 confirm that there has been no significant increase yet in industry's demands for funds since the end of short-term working, and suggest that the considerable devaluation in the money supply is still being maintained.

Banking figures for the four weeks to April 17 confirm that there has been no significant increase yet in industry's demands for funds since the end of short-term working, and suggest that the considerable devaluation in the money supply is still being maintained.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 119.79 + 1.90
F.T. index: 303.0 + 6.9

Rises

Ass Port Cement	2½p to 140p	Hawker Siddeley	6p to 27½p
Barclays Bk	6p to 25½p	Imp Chem Ind	6p to 22½p
Baxters Bk	6p to 12½p	Nat Ind	4p to 5½p
Bechtel Grp	4p to 23½p	Reed Int	8p to 22½p
BICC	4p to 12½p	Slater Walker	9p to 15½p
Debenhams	3p to 6½p	Tube Invest	8p to 25½p
GKN	3p to 18½p	Unilever	5p to 28½p

Falls

EC of Ireland	8p to 390p	Leslie	6p to 18½p
Elphinstone	4p to 75p	Roll Secs	1p to 15p
Cons Gold Fields	7p to 23½p	Rockware Grp	1p to 5½p
Gr Portland	8p to 15½p	Sentrust	10p to 28½p
Imp Cont Gas	7p to 33½p	Shannon	2p to 11p
Irish Prop	7p to 11½p	Triumph Inv	2p to 11p
Lidano	7p to 1,100p	Whescoe	10p to 9½p

THE POUND

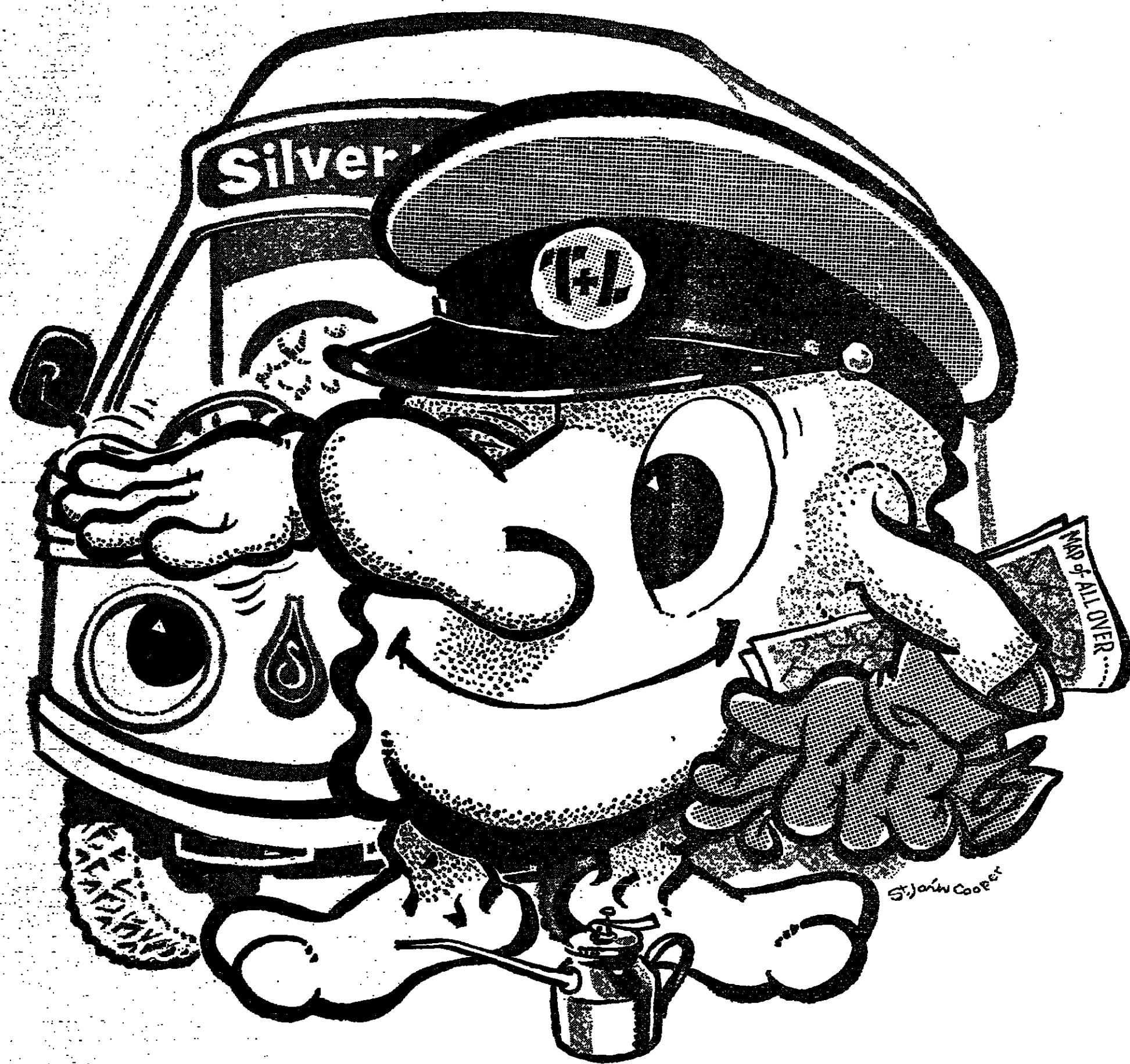
	Bank	Bank
	buys	seils
Australia S	1.68	1.655
Austria Sch	45.00	43.00
Belgium Fr	97.25	94.50
Canada S	2.37	2.32
Denmark Kr	14.50	14.10
Finland Mk	9.10	8.85
France Fr	13.92	13.65
Germany DM	6.05	5.85
Greece Dr	72.25	70.00
Hongkong S	12.25	11.90
Italy L	1600.00	1600.00
Japan Yn	700.00	675.00
Netherlands Gld	6.40	6.20
Norway Kr	13.10	12.75
Portugal Esc	6.50	6.20
Spain Ptas	1.80	1.75
Sweden Kr	14.00	13.00
Switzerland Fr	7.20	6.95
US \$	2.47	2.42
Yugoslavia Dnr	36.75	35.00

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... **Sir Ernest Woodroffe (Chairman)**

ings) Limited,
J23 8LD



Mr Cube, Knight of the Road.

You probably think of Tate & Lyle as simply the sugar people.

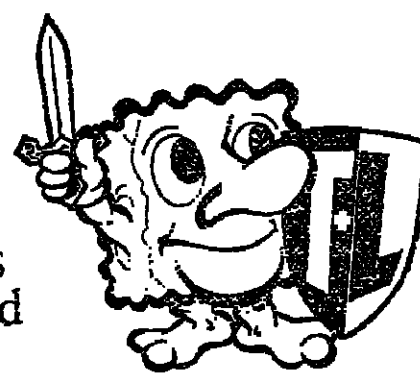
If that's the case, Mr Cube would like to change your mind.

Because Tate & Lyle's shipping, warehousing and distribution, bulk liquid storage, commodity trading, engineering and road transport actually account for *more* profit than the traditional sugar refining.

Of course, every one of these activities has been a natural development using the skills that come to Mr Cube from growing, buying, transporting, storing, refining and distributing his sugar.

He got into road transport, for example, because of the need to transport Tate & Lyle sugar about the country. He now transports a lot of other people's goods as well, and the various Tate & Lyle transport fleets include over 700 vehicles.

Mr Cube will, of course, continue on your sugar packets. But he firmly intends to carry on his drive to expand in other places, too.



**TATE
+
LYLE**

Out of sweetness came forth strength

Telephone Rentals

LIMITED

Incorporating

DICTOGRAPH TELEPHONES LIMITED

OPERATING TR SERVICES

Results 1973

- * Group Profits for 1973 after Depreciation but before Taxation were £6,703,234, an increase of 10.72% over the previous year. These profits are, once again, a record but, as anticipated at the time of the Interim Statement they were adversely affected by the general industrial and economic situation in the United Kingdom during the second half of the year.
- * The Directors recommend an increased Final Dividend of 11.54% making a total for 1973 of 16.44% equivalent to 24.22% gross (23.07% gross for 1972). This uplift is just within the 5% increase in gross dividends allowed under the Pay & Prices regulations.
- * Both at home and overseas the Group had a very successful year. Compared with 1972 additional rentals secured showed an increase of 37% and Sale Outright an increase of 12.5%.

Statistical Record of the Group for Ten Years

	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
Total Funds employed	£M 26.06	23.25	20.63	18.82	17.42	15.94	14.30	13.38	12.29	11.21
Turnover	£M 18.51	16.93	16.79	15.17	13.41	13.05	9.50	8.76	7.79	6.98
Rental Revenue (included in Turnover above)	£M 11.15	10.14	9.52	9.04	8.44	8.15	6.55	5.97	5.46	4.97
Depreciation	£M 2.34	2.13	2.00	1.86	1.74	1.72	1.37	1.24	1.35	1.20
Group Profit before Tax	£M 6.79	6.05	5.65	5.25	4.75	4.28	3.34	2.75	2.30	2.20
Ordinary Dividends (gross)	% 24.22	23.07	22.00	20.00	16.97	16.30	15.76	12.63	8.84	8.29
Earnings per share	p 8.70*	9.53	8.62	8.17	6.73	6.36	5.62	4.84	4.42	3.38

NOTES:

- 1968 Figures: These include the Dictograph Group of Companies for the first time. The Turnover, Rental Revenue and Depreciation totals for these Companies are for the sixteen months to 31st December, 1968, but the Profits before Tax are for the post-acquisition period only.
- The Parent Company's share of the Profits of the Australian Associated Company were included in the Consolidated figures for the first time in 1969.
- As from 6th April, 1973, Tax on Dividends is imputed to Shareholders and payable by the Company as an advance of Corporation Tax. The 1972 and 1973 Dividend rates are grossed up to provide a comparison with rates in earlier years.
- The Ordinary Dividend percentages and Earnings per share have been adjusted to take into account Capitalisation issues.
- The Earnings per share have been affected by the change in basis of Company Taxation; the Gross Earnings per Share based on Group Profit before Taxation are: 1973—17.27p, 1972—15.60p.

Future Prospects

- * Mr. E. H. Cooper, Chairman, states "In view of the present economic situation and the intention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to introduce a further budget in the autumn, it would be injudicious to comment in any detail on your Company's prospects for 1974. However, your Company has the largest order book in its history and new rental business taken during the first four months of the year is considerably in excess of that secured at this stage during 1973. These factors, coupled with your Company's strong financial position, leave your Board quietly confident that your Company's record of seventeen years consecutive increase in profitability will be continued during 1974."

Meeting 6th June, 1974.

Dividend payable 13th June, 1974.

High prices 'will undermine Arab oil

By Roger Violevoe

High prices for crude oil are likely to continue until the 1980s when the strong position of the oil producers would start to be undermined, according to Professor Colin Robinson, Professor of Economics at the University of Surrey.

He said at the Institution of Electrical Engineers conference on Energy, Europe and the 1980s, that the industrialised countries would have to live with a group of suppliers who would expand output slowly and increase prices.

But he added: "Just as the low price era eventually came to an end, the era of high and rising prices will sow the seeds of its own destruction as the demand for OPEC crude becomes more and more elastic."

His forecasting is based on the presence of alternatives to crude oil in the form of supplies from

tar sands, shale and coal and also the energy potential of nuclear power and geothermal sources.

In this situation it was only a question of time before the ability of the oil producers to manipulate prices became severely constrained as they were once again forced to operate in a competitive market.

"When this happens—probably some time in the 1980s—oil prices should first stabilise and will then most probably fall relative to the general price level. Indeed, a substantial absolute reduction in oil prices is quite conceivable at this stage."

"If the oil producers exploit their power ruthlessly over the next 10 years they may raise the price of their product above the price of substitute energy forms."

Professor Robinson said the producers had a choice. They could be relatively moderate in their price demands, putting off the day when serious competi-

tion arrived and lessening the force of the eventual competition.

Alternatively they could bring forward the competition by the full-blooded exploitation of their present bargaining power. They could not exploit their power and avoid bringing on the competition.

Professor Robinson also spelled out a warning on the future of European coal-mining operations. He said the industry was relatively labour intensive and the miners would no doubt try to raise their earnings faster.

"Because of this tendency it is by no means clear that European coal will improve its competitive position relative to oil as fast as popular opinion seems to believe. For a few years the strength of the oil producers will probably push up oil prices faster than the price of coal, but it is doubtful whether over the 10 to 15 years, the price of European coal will increase significantly less than oil prices."

But Mr Derek Bara, chair of the National Coal Board, a more optimistic view. He said against a background of rising world energy costs, EEC's longer term interest in security and cheapness of supply both pointed in the same direction—the development of and other indigenous resources as the first priority and reduction of import dependence.

The coal industry must find a vital and continuing contribution to energy requirements of the enlarged community. A role should be seen as complementary to that of the oil and indigenous fuels in providing a base as possible of security and economic energy supplies.

The Community should adopt an energy policy framework which would create the conditions to enable the European coal industry at least to maintain production at the present level by expanding in the most productive coalfields to offset inevitable reductions elsewhere.

Lockheed confirms merger negotiations

Burbank, California, May 8.—Mr Daniel C. Haughton, chairman of Lockheed Aircraft Corp., has confirmed at a shareholders' meeting that Textron Inc is one of the companies which Lockheed is considering as a merger candidate.

He said that other companies were being considered. After the meeting he declined to rule out a merger with General Dynamics Corporation. He said he was not directly taking part in the merger discussions. These were being conducted by the company's investment bankers, Lazard Freres and Co.

In response to another question, Mr Haughton said that Mr Howard Hughes, the industrialist, was not one of the parties with which Lockheed was in negotiation.

Lockheed obtained a \$100m (about £41m) loan commitment from Mr Hughes last September, but the proposed financing, to develop a new aircraft, lapsed two months ago. Under the terms Mr Hughes still has the right until June 13 to buy up to \$10m of Lockheed's 20-year 6 per cent convertible subordinated debentures.

If the debentures are bought and then fully converted by Textron Corporation, which is 100 per cent owned by Mr Hughes, it would give Textron nearly 10 per cent control of Lockheed, according to informed sources.

Providence, Rhode Island: Textron Inc said it had not held merger discussions with Lockheed.—Reuters.

Public sector's dominance 'bad for builders'

By Malcolm Brown

A leading builder issued a warning yesterday about the growing dominance of the public sector work in the building industry.

The steady growth of the industry's public sector work over the last two decades was clearly connected with the highly damaging stop-go cycles which had constrained the building progress over that time, Mr William Paton, retiring president of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, said at the federation's annual general meeting in London.

Mr Paton said: "All the evidence suggests that it is not a good thing for our industry's well-being to have a building programme so heavily weighted in the public sector, where it often appears that decisions are based more on political promises than on the certain knowledge of availability of financial resources to sustain them."

"I cannot believe that this is a sound foundation from which a large labour intensive industry like ours, which needs continuity of employment, can confidently and efficiently work."

At the same meeting Mr Gerald Kaufman, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, said the Government was starting to restore stability and confidence to the private housing market.

Mr Kaufman said the situation in council house building when the Government came to office two months ago was "disastrous".

More short time at two German car groups

Frankfurt, May 8.—Adam Opel AG and Volkswagenwerk AG said they plan further short time work this month because of continuing slack sales.

Volkswagen will work short time from May 24 to May 31. Short time will be concentrated in the Hanover plant, where Volkswagen's light transporters are built, and in the Emden plant, where the Beetle cars for export to the United States are produced, a company spokesman said. He gave no further details.

Adam Opel AG will go on short time at its Kaiserslautern and Rueselsheim plants from May 12 to May 18, affecting 20,000 to 21,500 workers. Mercedes-Benz AG and Audi NSU spokesmen said there were no plans for their companies to go on short time.—AP-Dow Jones.

Tyre prices up: Mo4 German tyre manufacturers are introducing 2 to 7 per cent price increases, mainly for commercial vehicle products, a German Tyre Traders' Association spokesman said.—Reuters.

Worst year for fire losses

Fire losses in Britain last year were the worst ever at an estimated £179m. This is an unwelcome increase from the previous level of £108.5m.

Mr Jack Greenwood, chairman of the Fire Protection Association, points out in the association's annual report that this "savagely upsurge in material losses" came at a time when the economy was least able to bear it.

It was in 1973 that two of the most tragic fires in recent years occurred; the Isle of Man disaster and the fire in an hotel in Oban. Of last year's fires were estimated to have cost more than £1m each.

Despite the work of the FPA in putting pressure on industry to improve its fire protection standards, Mr Greenwood points out: "Only management can control its own fire risk."

Two of the most serious areas of concern to the FPA are hotels and schools. Last year there were 94 fires in primary and secondary schools resulting in fire damage of £6m.

OTTOMAN BANK

Notice is hereby given that a DIVIDEND at the rate of £1.40 per Share, voted at the General Meeting of Shareholders, held on the 8th May 1974, will be PAYABLE on and after 31st May 1974, in London at the Office, 23 Fenchurch Street, E.C.3. The Coupon to be presented is No. 101. The holders of Founders Shares will receive an amount of £115.74 per whole share payable on the same date and at the same place, against presentation of Coupon No. 44. Coupons must be listed on forms, which can be obtained on application, and left five clear days for examination before payment.

British Vita is INTERNATIONAL

Extracts from Chairman's Review, April 1974:

- "Trading Profit from UK operations increased from £597,000 in 1972 to £1,164m in 1973."
- "Trading Profits attributable to the Shareholders of British Vita Company Limited, from its international operations, increased from £1,097m to £1,674m."
- "It is also worthy of note that the Net Cash Dividends received into the UK from your Company's international operations, exceeded by more than twice the Net Cost of the parent company's dividend."
- "It was decided that as part of your Company's comprehensive global strategy, the commitment of your valuable management, technological resources and funds should be deflected towards those projects that show a capability of being transposed internationally in the foreseeable future."
- "Internationally, your Group is broadening its base of operations in territories where it is already established. In addition, negotiations are reaching conclusion in three further countries and a number of others are in the embryonic stage."

Results at a Glance	1973 £000	1972 £000
External turnover (excluding share of associated companies)	24,857	21,856
Trading profit:		
United Kingdom	1,164	597
Overseas	577	169
Share of profit of associated companies	1,041	804
Profit available to shareholders	1,169	844
Dividends paid (net) (1972 - gross)	103	133
Dividend proposed (net)	96	100
Retained profit	970	611
Average capital employed	11,746	10,214
Return on capital	23.7%	16.4%
Earnings per 25p share	23.1p	16.3p
Ordinary dividend per 25p share (adjusted)	3.85p	3.53p
Number of times covered	5.9	3.7

Dividend

The Directors propose the payment of a final dividend of 1.85p per share payable on 29th May 1974 which together with the related tax credit under the imputation system is equivalent to 2.76p per share making a total for the year of 5.51p (22%) per share, compared with 21% for the previous year.

A Special Resolution will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting which, if passed, will give shareholders the opportunity of receiving shares in lieu of dividend.

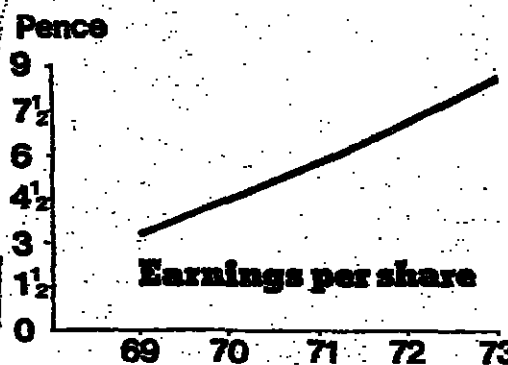
The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Midway Hotel, Castleton, Rochdale on 16 May 1974 at 12 noon.

BRITISH Vita

British Vita Report and Accounts for 1973 may be obtained from the company headquarters at Middleton, Manchester M24 2DB.

BTR Limited 1973

Sales up by 25% to £70m



Overseas trading now 56% of total sales

Copies of the Report & Accounts can be obtained from The Secretary at Silverdown House, Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PL

THE IMPERIAL COLD STORAGE AND SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

FINAL DIVIDEND ON ORDINARY SHARES

Further to the notice of the final dividend declaration on the ordinary shares of this Company advertised in the press on 14th March, 1974, the conversion rate applicable to payments in U.K. currency in respect of that dividend is £100 = R164.79 equivalent to 4.2419p per share.

The effective rate of South African Non-Resident Shareholders' Tax is 14.51%.

London Transfer Secretaries and Registrars: Charter Consolidated Services Limited, Kent House, Station Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1QB.

24 May, 1974

Feedingstuff prices 'could drop by 20 pc'

A cautious forecast that prices of animal feedingstuffs could fall by as much as 20 per cent in the second half of the year came yesterday from Mr Francis Saint, chairman of BOCM Silcock, the largest feedingstuff compounders in Britain.

Last year rising cereal costs made feedingstuff prices rise faster than almost any others. But Mr Saint said yesterday at his company's poultry fair at Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire, that costs of compounders' raw materials had fallen sharply in the EEC this year.

"Our raw material costs are slowly trending downwards but so far they have done little more than offset the escalations of other costs."

Mr Mike Heron, marketing director, said the company had managed to cut feed prices by about £3 a ton. "It is likely that this trend will continue," he added.

Mr Saint said that he hoped the Government's talk of renegotiating EEC membership represented "the cosmetics of continued electioneering" rather than genuine aims.

Agriculture was now suffering from uncertainty about this country's future in the EEC. "If the decision is to go back to the old straitjacket of the deficiency payments system, the damage to the industry will be incalculable."

Arab delegation sees Mr Varley on cooperation

A three-man delegation from the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) has been in London discussing ways of promoting industrial and economic cooperation between Britain and the Arab oil producers.

The delegation consisting of Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian oil minister, Mr Yusuf Shirawi, Bahrain's minister of development and Dr Ali Arifia, yesterday held a one-day seminar with businessmen. They have also met Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Energy.

Companies House protest

Another voice has been raised in protest against the transfer of Companies House from London to Cardiff. The annual report of the General Federation of Trade Unions, released yesterday, says that members' concern has been expressed to the Government.

The federation has had an official reply that the London search facility would remain

Ministry calls the first joint talks over Port Talbot steel shutdown

By R. W. Shakespeare

The Department of Employment has stepped in to try to settle the strike by engineering craftsmen which has closed the huge British Steel Corporation steelworks at Port Talbot in South Wales for the past two weeks.

Union representatives and BSC management have been invited to talks with department officials at its Cardiff offices tomorrow. This will be the first time that both sides have been involved in discussions on the craftsmen's dispute since the strike began.

Mr Isl Lloyd, Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers official responsible for the steelworks, has strongly criticized the corporation for not initiating fresh negotiations earlier. The stoppage by 1,600 craftsmen has made 9,500 other

steelworkers idle and stopped all steelmaking and steel finishing operations at Port Talbot.

The engineers are demanding a £6.50 a week pay increase and have turned down a BSC offer of £3.50, which the corporation maintains is the maximum allowed under present pay legislation.

The dispute has now reached a critical stage, posing a threat to production and employment in other industries. The Port Talbot works makes about one-sixth of BSC's total steel output, and this includes a high proportion of the special sheet steels for the car industry.

When the strike began Mr Bob Scholey, BSC chief executive, said that if it continued for more than a fortnight, some of the plant's biggest customers would be in serious supply difficulties, because stocks at the

car plants and elsewhere were lower than usual after the three-day week.

Mr Lloyd claims that this warning and the BSC's failure to make any new approach to the unions are a "contradiction in terms."

Port Talbot also turns out large quantities of tinplate for the canning industry, and for the past week the threat of shortages has been increased by a second strike of 550 workers at the BSC works at Ebbw Vale. These men have now called off their stoppage pending further negotiations on their pay claim.

One of the biggest customers for special sheet steel produced at Port Talbot is British Leyland, which at its car body plants at Cowley and Longbridge turns out body shells for its own range of cars and for a number of other car companies.

Commission quashed 144 cost pleas in month

By Hugh Clayton

The Price Commission said yesterday that it rejected 144 claims for price rises in April and modified a further 64. The rejections ranged from 37.15 per cent on AEL cables to 29 per cent on Shell Chemicals polystyrene, resins and lubricants.

The Commission also rejected claims for increases in cover prices and advertising rates from 11 divisions of the Westminster Press provincial newspaper group.

The agency said it won price cuts worth more than £1m from Category Two distributors in April. It added that in the past year it had won similar price cuts worth £13.5m.

British Nuclear Fuels faced rejection last month of a claim to charge an extra 12.6 per cent for electricity generation at Calder Hall power station. Phillips lost their case for 9 per cent on washing machines and Canning Town Glassworks for 15 per cent on glass containers.

The Commission said it had blocked 15 increases of up to 33 per cent from Durham Chemicals and four rises from Monsanto. Burmah Castrol withdrew a claim for an extra 5 per cent on lubricants while Kellogg Co and Nabisco faced slight cuts in their increases on cereals and biscuits.

Mr Benn invites motor traders' chief for talks

Mr Gilbert Hunt, chairman of Chrysler UK and president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, who last week criticized previous governments for meddling in industrial policies, yesterday had "an amiable chat" with Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry.

The meeting, arranged at Mr Benn's request, followed Mr Hunt's speech to the annual meeting of the SMMT when he gave a warning that if the present Government returned to the "dangerous meddling and obstructive policies" of three years ago, the Government would have no alternative but to provide financial help for manufacturers because no one else would provide money for new investment.

He added: "Britain must now make a choice between nationalized stagnation and a profit-motivated industrial future with assurances of managerial independence for future expansion and the greater wealth for all."

The Department of Industry stressed later that the meeting was part of "a continual dialogue" between the department and industry.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Technologists and technicians: the missing ranks in UK industry

From Mr J. Boulton and others

Sir, In a recent speech (April 27) in the House of Lords, Lord Bowden drew attention to the difficulty experienced by universities in attracting students "to study those subjects which fit them for a place in productive industry." This is a problem which has been exercising the undersigned.

Recently there has been great publicity and concern over the energy problems that arose when oil supplies were restricted. High-level Government and industrial committees were set up to tackle the consequent effects on both the national economy and our daily lives. In the short term the high economic cost has had to be accepted; in the long term our large reserves of coal, and the oil and gas fields in the North Sea, offer a partial solution.

Much less attention, however, has been paid to a more fundamental problem on which we believe urgent action is needed. This concerns the provision of an adequate number of well-trained and well-motivated technologists, technicians, engineers and scientists for our basic industries and their full utilization by industry, with a proper recognition of their value through appropriate status and reward.

The statistics quoted by Lord Bowden bears this out.

The basic industries referred to are those covered by the institutions represented by the undersigned and also many other industries which are of prime importance to our national prosperity. Typical examples are all branches of engineering, mining, paper making and printing, pottery and rubber manufacture, food technology, leather and wood-working.

The industrial net output and also the value of products ex-

ported by these old-established industries is many times higher than that of the modern aerospace electronics, etc. industries which attract not only far higher governmental research expenditure but also much larger numbers of trained people—on the shop floor, in design, development and management.

There are good educational facilities available in this country which cover all levels of technology and technical training in university faculties of technology, polytechnics and colleges of further education. However, these attract a small complement of students and a large proportion of those are from overseas. Technicians and technologists are not coming forward in sufficient numbers to meet adequately the real future requirements of industry.

This subject was discussed by the undersigned and their chief executives at a recent meeting of the Council of Professional Technological Societies (CPTS).

Many of the council members are familiar with both training and industrial organization in their own fields on the Continent and were therefore able to compare the British situation with that of their continental competitors.

Overall they were of the opinion that the number and quality of United Kingdom students coming forward for training as technicians and technologists in the United Kingdom is significantly lower and also that their degree of motivation during training and afterwards is relatively low. Above all, industry in the United Kingdom does not use the full potential of these skilled people and treats them poorly in terms of status and reward. We all felt that this picture presents a very serious problem for the future standards of performance and competitiveness of many important areas of British industry.

Britain can improve if it is cogently term: we can miss extract oil from it but we cannot train large numbers of technologists and (and the numbers large). Even if a large number of trained personnel the question is whether the press of large parts of it would ensure that in ways which use of their talents give them both the rewards that, automatically by the of the higher productivity greater efficiency, seas competitors a more efficient use of more skill trained people in development and ment, as well as o floor, in all industry.

This letter is a draw attention to a United Kingdom p encourage correct

J. BOULTON, Chairman, Council of Professional Technological Societies; Textile Institute; I. RIGG, President, Society of Colourists; P. G. NOBLE, Immediate p Society of Dyers and F. C. BROWN, Chairman, Council of Institute; J. BUIST, Chairman the Institution of Industry; G. HENRY, Chairman, Counciling Institute; D. S. SAUNDERS, Chairman, Council of Plastics Institute.

'No salvation' in higher air fares

By Arthur Reed

Leaders of world aviation were told by Lord Boyd-Carpenter, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, yesterday that no salvation for the ills of the industry was to be found simply in increased fares.

Speaking at a conference in London organized by the Financial Times, Lord Boyd-Carpenter said some fare adjustments were made inescapable by fuel price increases, but the industry should not forget that the growth end was the cheap end.

"Solution did not lie in a hell-bent rush for higher fares," he said. The industry's future in the provision of fast and supersonic aircraft for a limited number of important people, and large, full aircraft offering moderate fares for a very large number of others.

Mr Adam Thomson, chairman of British Caledonian, said that if airlines continued to fail to find a solution, governments should impose realistic regulations which would allow efficient airlines to succeed.

If both airlines and the regulatory authorities continued to fail, governments would have to support airlines with taxpayers' money—just as most countries supported their railways.

Mr Pierre Cot, chairman of Air France, told the conference he hoped that cooperation between airlines in Europe would be extended, although commercial problems would arise when the individual public image of each airline had disappeared.

What would passengers think of an Air France flight between Paris and Rio de Janeiro operated by a Lufthansa aircraft,

manned by an Italian cockpit crew and Spanish cabin attendants?

Mr Knut Hammarström, director of the International Air Transport Association, described the challenges facing the industry as "ominous and serious."

Airlines would have to rationalize service standards and operating patterns, while the public must realize the era of diminishing air fares was past.

Mr Robert D. Timm, chairman of the United States Civil Aeronautics Board, said proper discounting activities by some airlines could no longer be tolerated.

"The tens, if not hundreds, of millions lost to the airlines each year through such practices represent a self-inflicted wound which must end."

Halcrow wins Gulf contract

Sir William Halcrow and Partners, a London firm of consulting engineers, has won a major contract from the Saudi Arabian Government to design a huge new port at Jubail, on the Arabian Gulf, about 60 miles north-east of Dammam.

Halcrow has been awarded the contract for the first stage of the development, the cost of which is estimated at about £175m. It will be signed in Riyadh this week.

Site investigations will commence immediately. The new port is being designed to serve the substantial industrial development planned for the Jubail area.

Committee of 20 deputies held up

Paris, May 8.—The link between special drawing rights and development aid, together with the gold price question, appears to be preventing real progress in discussions by the Committee of Twenty deputies, according to conference sources.

The deputies were tackling the first part of the proposed "outline of reform," the sources said. This was with the intention of drawing up a consensus document rather than a chairman's report for the ministerial-level meeting in Washington on June 12 and 13.

Delegates said decisions would be left to this Washington meeting. They said the United States, with West German support, was opposing the link between the redefined special drawing rights and development aid.—Reuter.

President signs US energy Bill

Washington, May 8.—President Nixon has signed legislation formally creating the Federal Energy Administration, whose chief task in the next decade will be that of pushing the United States towards energy self-sufficiency—a venture which Mr John Sawhill, the agency's chief, said would involve investments of close to \$1,000,000m (£416,000m) by industry.

Prime rate changes: Most New York banks have now followed the trend set already around the end of the United States and raised their prime lending rates to 11 per cent from 10½ per cent.

Leading bankers have for weeks been suggesting that rates will fall, while, in fact, they have continued to climb, and they appear now to be changing their tune.

Ottoman Bank

Incorporated in Turkey with Limited Liability

Statement by the Chairman, The Rt. Hon. Lord Latymer, at the 107th Annual General Meeting held in London on the 8th May, 1974.



Offices

LONDON
23, Fenchurch Street,
EC3M 3DD
Tel: 01-626 0545

Administrative Office
2-3 Philpot Lane,
EC3M 8AQ
Tel: 01-626 5932

PARIS
7, Rue Meyerbeer
75009
Tel: 073-67-05

TURKEY
ISTANBUL
Karaköy (Head Office)
Altınbalık
Bakırköy
Beşiktaş
Beykoz
Beyoğlu
Cambaritas
Cihangir
Etiler
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Feniköy
Fındıklı
Galatasaray
Gaziosmanpaşa
Kabataş
Kadıköy
Kapalıcaşı
Kasimpasa
Laleli
Levent
Nisantasi
Osmanbey

TURKEY (Continued)
Sarıyer
Saskinbakkal
Sisli
Taksim
Taksim
Unkapanı
Üsküdar
Yeniköy

Adana (4)
Akşehir
Ankara (18)
Antakya
Atayla
Aydin
Ayvalık
Balıkesir
Bandırma
Bergama
Bursa (4)
Ceyhan
Edirne
Eskişehir (2)
Gaziantep (2)
İskenderun (2)
İzmir (3)
Kayseri
Malatya
Manisa
Mardin (2)
Samsun (2)
Tarsus
Tekirdağ
Trabzon
Uşak
Zonguldak

Associated Banks

FRANCE
BANQUE GRINDLAY
OTTOMANE
Paris
Aix-en-Provence
Cannes
Geneva
Marseille
Monte Carlo
Nice

LEBANON
SOCIÉTÉ NOUVELLE
DE LA BANQUE DE
SYRIE ET DU LIBAN
S.A.L.
Beirut (7)
Baalbeck (2)
Borj-Hammoud
Chih
Jounieh
Saida
Tebnine
Tripoli (3)
Tyr
Zahle

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am informed that this Meeting is properly constituted and I will call upon the Secretary to read the Notice convening the Meeting.

I presume that it is your wish that the Report and Balance Sheet which have been circulated to you should be taken as read. Is this agreed?

You will remember that I told you last year that, on the occasion of the visit of Monsieur Monick and myself to Ankara, the Turkish Government advised us of its wish to see the Ottoman Bank associated with Turkish interests to whom the majority of the local capital would be transferred.

I also told you that thanks to our good relations with a Turkish banking group we drew up a plan which seemed to us to meet the requirements of all interested parties.

This plan, which for various reasons entailed somewhat lengthy discussions, had just been submitted to the Turkish authorities at the time of our last General Meeting; we had reason then to think that Government approval would be forthcoming as our plan was in line with their thinking. As you know, however, a General Election took place in October 1973, but it was not until the beginning of 1974 that a Coalition Government was formed.

Without losing any time we contacted the new Government and our first interview at Ministerial level enabled us to establish that our representations were well understood. The Government wished, however, for time to reflect on the matter before taking a decision.

In spite of the fresh delay which has occurred, the fact that notice has not been given enables us to continue working normally under the régime of our Convention, whilst at the same time, of course, pursuing our efforts to find a satisfactory solution for the future.

HOTEL PROJECT—ISTANBUL INTERCONTINENTAL
The hotel construction in Istanbul to which I referred at the last Annual General Meeting continues satisfactorily and it is hoped that the Hotel will be open for business in May or June 1975.

BANQUE GRINDLAY OTTOMANE
The Paris Branch of Banque Grindlay Ottomane has been completely modernized thus facilitating the development and diversification of that Bank's affairs in Paris. The business of the other Branches continues to expand satisfactorily and during the year an office was successfully established in Monte Carlo. The close association maintained with National and Grindlays Group assists to a marked extent the expansion of the overseas business of Banque Grindlay Ottomane.

TURKEY
The Turkish economy expanded satisfactorily during 1973. The gross national product reached 6.4%, or nearly the 7.5% forecast in the Plan. The slight shortfall stems from a drop in agricultural production. On the other hand, progress was achieved in the fields of industry, building, commerce and communications.

The 1973 wheat crop is estimated at 9 million tons as compared with 11 million tons in the preceding year; other crops were (1972 figures in brackets): tobacco 184,000 tons (173,000);

cotton 520,000 tons (544,000); sugar beet 5,400,000 tons (5,898,000).

The fruit crop (nuts, figs, raisins) showed a small increase at 422,000 tons against 355,000 tons; olives, however, yielded only 487,000 tons compared with 1,018,000 tons in 1972.

The industrial sector plays a constantly increasing role in the economy and this progress has continued.

petroleum products: increased from 10,718,000 tons in 1972 to 11,622,000 tons in 1973.

steel production: 2,272,000 tons against 1,977,000 tons in 1972.

cement: 9,400,000 tons against 8,425,000 tons in 1972.

paper: 354,000 tons against 308,000 tons in 1972.

sugar: 755,000 tons against 746,000 tons in 1972.

The output of electricity further progressed to kWh 12,200,000 against kWh 11,200,000 in 1973.

Important increases were again shown in all headings making up the balance of payments. (Foreign exchange reserves showed a favourable position of the equivalent of approximately \$2,000,000,000 at the end of 1973):

exports reached \$1,318,000,000;

imports exceeded \$2,000,000,000;

Turkish workers abroad repatriated \$1,183,000,000 against \$732,000,000 in 1972.

Tourism has continued to develop satisfactorily. Several tourist centres (holiday villages, hotels, etc.) are in course of construction. In Istanbul construction of two large hotels (Sheraton and Istanbul Intercontinental) is in course, as is that of a third somewhat smaller hotel.

The opening in October 1973 of the suspension bridge, the longest of its type in Europe (3,500 feet), over the Bosphorus has already been reported in the press. The bridge will bring very considerable benefits to the communications system and the economy of Turkey.

LEBANON
Monsieur Philippe Dupéron, the Chairman of the Société Nouvelle de la Banque de Syrie et du Liban since its formation in April 1963, resigned in May 1973. His wide experience and wise counsel will be much missed, but he has accepted the position of Président d'Honneur, thus ensuring that his advice will be readily available to the Bank. He was succeeded as Chairman by Monsieur Guy Trancart, a senior executive of the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, Paris.

The affairs of the Bank expanded satisfactorily in 1973 as a result of the increased business available in the Lebanon in conditions of relative political stability despite the outbreak of hostilities in October 1973.

The continued appreciation of the Lebanese £ in terms of Western currencies, particularly the US \$, has caused certain difficulties in the Lebanese banking industry.

BALANCE SHEET
Our Balance Sheet totals of £142.3 million at 31st December 1973 compare with £140.7 million at 31st December 1972 and

only minor and fortuitous changes are shown in the various headings of the Balance Sheet. Cash, Money at Call and Receivable together give a liquidity ratio to Current Deposits of 33.2%. Our business in Turkey continues to be satisfactory and this is evidenced by the increase figures of Acceptances, Endorsements and Guarantees.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

The Profit and Loss Account shows that the profit for the year ended 31st December 1973 was £293,000, or almost £100,000 higher than the comparable figure for 1972, after deducting profits awaiting transfer including the balance of £40,328 brought forward from there remains an amount of £870,380.

Again this year, our Committee have considered it prudent to place £100,000 to reserve.

From the Balance available your Committee recommend a dividend of £1.40 per share be paid, which will be £700,000. In conformity with Article 40 of the Statutes the balance will also be made to holders of Founders Shares £115.74 per whole share, requiring £25,000 and a sum amount to Members of Committee, leaving £20,380 carried forward to next year.

STAFF

Before I put to you the resolutions to be taken today, I am that you would like me to thank all our staff on your behalf for their work during the year.

RESOLUTIONS

I now have to submit a formal Resolution concerning the R. Balance Sheet and Dividend and I shall call upon Monsieur Monick to second that Resolution. When he has done so, I am pleased to answer any questions on the subject.

I therefore have to propose:

"That the Report and Accounts now read be received; adopted; that the Dividend for the year ended 31st December 1973 be fixed at the rate of £1.40 per Share, and the Dividend be payable in Istanbul, London and Paris on 31st 1974."

Monsieur Monick seconded the Resolution.

Before submitting the Resolution to this Meeting, I am glad to answer to the best of my ability any questions you have on the subject of the Report and Accounts.

After the Chairman had replied to questions, the Resolution was put to the Meeting and carried.

RE-ELECTIONS

I finally have to propose the re-election of Members of Committee and shall call upon Mr. M. J. Babinington Smith to second the Resolution:

"That as recommended by the Committee, Mr. Charles Clay, Mr. G. H. Hemidge, Lord Latymer, Monsieur Emile Monick and Mr. N. J. Robson be and they are hereby re-elected Members of the Committee."

Mr. Babinington Smith seconded the Resolution which was carried.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Chairman, Committee, Officers and Staff of the Bank.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Pensions: another market hope in jeopardy

time a year ago, when the index was resting comfortably above the 450 mark—yes, a year ago—and considering more people than today reasonably happy about long-term future of equity investment, they used to talk of the inevitable boom in North Sea oil and the flood of new investment funds that would be unleashed on the market once the new Government pension scheme came into operation. If the wealth of the North Sea still appears to offer to the equity investor, the spectre of a vast inflow of new money into the capital markets looks to have been effectively knocked on the head by the Government's decision to scrap the Conservatives' pension scheme.

But, that is in no way an over-optimistic factor for the pension scheme was not due to come into operation until a year away—but, for all that, it is not particularly encouraging news for the medium-term investor. The new fund was expected to have around £500m to be invested in the first year and could obviously have taken a few years for it to have the largest investment in the market. Not only that, but the requirement put on companies that they should opt out of the scheme, and the fact that the state arrangements would have greatly increased the initial flow of new money into the stock market.

That we are to have in place the State Reserve Scheme is to be seen, but the indications are that any form of state pension scheme will be a long time in the making. True, it might have turned out that the State Reserve Scheme might eventually have been put into the market, but the indications are that any form of state pension scheme will be a long time in the making. True, it might have turned out that the State Reserve Scheme might eventually have been put into the market, but the indications are that any form of state pension scheme will be a long time in the making.

World prices for titanium oxide and phthalic anhydride held steady at the higher levels. Currency movements have been working in the exporters' favour and margins on this side are more than compensated for squeeze in domestic markets.

Associated companies, chipping in £2.9m at a profit, improved a more modest improvement and growth in profits seems to have tailed off in the last six months. There seem to have been some additional costs this side, although the groups view that the interest rates are less volatile, upwards or downwards, than the rest of the group.

The question for the shares, yesterday, is whether this performance, and the good one expected in the current year, is really reflected in the price. A p/e ratio of 9.4 suggests that it is.

While demand, particularly the export front, looks like being buoyant for most of 1974, there are one or two fears for

the longer term. Du Pont's rumoured plans for expanding titanium dioxide production in the United States, currently experiencing shortages of capacity, could affect both domestic and export prices. Secondly, Laporte's growth in export led, particularly vulnerable, to any downturn in Europe or any strengthening of the pound. With the shares at their present level there does not seem much more to go for.

Final: 1973 (1972)
Capitalization £24.3m
Sales £50m (£35m)
Pre-tax profits £7.3m (£3.2m)
Earnings per share 11.41p (5.65p)
Dividend gross 6.7p (3.75p)

Eagle Star Importance of life profits

The Eagle Star prognostications for 1974 may make slightly more encouraging reading than those from General Accident earlier this week, but they should probably be little surprise. Against G.A.'s considerable vulnerability in earnings terms to a dip in underwriting profits this year, Eagle Star's defensive merits in the form of its larger than average commitment to life business starts to come into its own.

Not that Eagle Star is without recovery prospects in its general underwriting business—Australia and Canada for instance—but the key at this stage is that the group at least feels confident of further increases in share holders' life profits—now on an annual valuation basis for transfers—which last year accounted for around a quarter of the pre-tax total. Not that the rate of increase in share profits is as large as last year now that interest rates have probably reached a plateau, but without profit policies (which have given considerable impetus to profit growth over the last year or so) apparently remain a good proportion of new business written.

Throw in investment income and one has Eagle Star competing very favourably with the other composites, selling at under 5 times pre-tax investment income and long term profits. But with no outstanding attraction in the field, the group's share price against the market at 9.9p—the more relevant short-term question would seem to be whether or not the Monopolies Commission gives the go-ahead for the Grove-wood and Sunley deals—then Eagle Star sets out for acquisitions that are now likely to cost around £45m against Eagle Star's own market capitalization of £92.5m.

Accounts: 1973 (1972)
Capitalization: £92.5m
Net assets £49.6m (£43.3m)
Pre-tax profit £19.1m (£15.8m)
Earnings per share 7.7p (10.4p)

Tozer Kemsley BMW sales turn down

The rate at which Tozer Kemsley & Milburn's profits growth slowed down last year—from 48 per cent in the first half to under 10 in the second—was a little sharper than expected and the shares fell 1p to 42p yesterday.

The question for the market now is whether the outlook for 1974 is sufficiently bleak to justify the loss of status apparent in a fully diluted p/e ratio of just 7.3.

To put it more specifically, the question is how far T.K.M.'s other activities can offset what seems bound to be a dreadful year for the Visby interests.

now wholly-owned, BMW sales have been virtually stagnant since November and it is doubtful whether Visby even managed to match its 1972 earnings last year, despite getting off to a good start. With the situation apparently exacerbated by spare parts problems, a substantial setback must be on the cards this time.

On the other hand, there may be more mileage in Price & Pierce than the market has allowed for before its market peak. It presumably accounted for the lion's share of the profits growth last year, given its poor record in 1972, and with wood-pulp in particular still a seller's market it would probably need a particularly sharp deterioration in timber to prevent some further growth this year.

T.K.M.'s traditional business—financing the movement of goods—is of course vulnerable both to any deterioration in world trade and to high money costs. But neither is as serious a problem for T.K.M. as is sometimes assumed, given the greater margin made of its financing facilities in depressed times and its ability to pass a high proportion of its own financing costs straight on to the customer. The new merchant banking operation has made a better-than-expected maiden contribution to profits while the sale of its lease on its former premises has, together with other disposals, added an exceptional £1.1m to retentions.

Since the year-end, the Canada disposal has given cash flow a further boost and T.K.M.'s balance sheet should look healthy enough. While the shares are unlikely to do much until the BMW position improves, they look capable of weathering 1974 well enough.

Final: 1973 (1972)
Capitalization £11.8m
Turnover £50m (£33m)
Pre-tax profits £4.3m (£3.48m)
Earnings per share 5.8p (5.5p)
Dividend gross 2.75p (2.625p)

Plantation Holdings Commodities conundrum

Prices of rubber and palm oil have come right off the top. Plantation Holdings' share price has fallen accordingly. But the parallel should not be overdone. While the importance of commodity prices is clear enough in a rise from £571,000 to £1.5m in Malaysian profits, the defensive argument in the face of falling prices remains strong.

Spot rubber prices, after all, are still 50 per cent higher than at this time last year with some firm underpinning from the fast rising cost of synthetic rubber. On the palm oil side, last year's rising level of production has still not worked out. And much of last year's crop was sold forward at relatively low prices anyway. Overall, PH is going for a further profit increase from Malaysia this year, leaving a catastrophic drop in prices.

The United Kingdom operations, meanwhile, should reap the benefit from the opening of three new factories in Scotland—start-up costs having dragged profits back last year—and whatever adverse effects resulted from three-day working should, at present rates, have been fully pulled back by the interim.

So there is every chance of PH seeing all-round growth again this year and that is a rare enough prospect these days to offer good support for a p/e ratio of 10.2 and a yield of 5 per cent with the shares at 44p.

Final: 1973 (1972)
Capitalization £10.9m
Pre-tax profits £2.09m (£1.02m)
Earnings per share 4.3p (2.7p)
Dividend gross 2.21p (2.1p)



Mr Arthur Hearsey.



Mr Len Edmondson.

A propaganda victory for union militancy

Paul Routledge explains the engineers' strike action

The first all-out engineering strike of unlimited duration that turned into a one-day wonder after a mystery donor pumped up £55,000 must rank as the oddest case in the annals of the National Industrial Relations Court, even in the chequered history of that short-lived body.

Apart from the newspaper and motor manufacturing industries, traditionally the first to suffer from such a strike action, the stoppage had scarcely begun before it was called off. There is no reliable estimate of the number of engineering workers who responded to the militant call of their divided leadership.

But though the strike may have had negligible industrial impact, the psychological and political significance should not be lightly dismissed. Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, used his casting vote to authorize the stoppage, was at pains yesterday afternoon not to crow over his successful defiance of the Industrial Court.

But the whole episode will go down in shopfloor folklore as a victory for the philosophy of direct action which is at the heart of the policies pursued by the increasingly dominant Left wing in the AUEW. If sufficient industrial muscle is used, the argument will run, then the Establishment has no option but to give in while changing to as much face as possible.

Ever since the 1971 Industrial Relations Act came into force, and with it all the apparatus of the court and its associated bodies, the prospect of a final trial of strength between organized labour and the law has been in sight. And it was bound to be the engineers, whose hostility has been the most implacable, who were cast in the role of the antagonist.

The writing was on the wall with the case of Mr James Goad, the Suffolk lay preacher whose futile efforts to remain a member of the AUEW cost the union £51,000 in fines and costs in 1972 for contempt of the court order to admit him to meetings. When Mr Robert Dilley, the "none of this trade union nonsense" chairman of the Woking firm of Cop-Mech Engineering, took the union to court for staging a recognition strike at his factory, it was clear that all was ready for a showdown.

A fine of £75,000 for contempt of the order to end the strike, promptly followed by a one-day stoppage in the entire industry, was only a curtain-raiser to the heavyweight contest over the issue of compensation to Mr Dilley. Though the new Labour Government promised to get rid of the Industrial Relations Act and all its trappings as quickly

as possible, Mr Foot could not move with sufficient speed to avert the big clash. Sir John Donaldson, the court's president, recalled in his judgment yesterday that the union's policy-making national committee meeting two weeks ago had an opportunity to reconsider its policy of defying the law. But by four to one the delegates voted to continue their unlawful posture, though they were aware of the sequestration threat hanging over them.

The scene was thus set for the critical vote on Tuesday, during the regular weekly session of the AUEW engineering section executive meeting at the union's offices in Peckham. The political profile of the seven-man executive is finely balanced but generally breaks four-three in favour of the Left.

On that day one of the leading militants, Mr Bob Wright, was on holiday in Yugoslavia. A three-three tie was expected and Mr Scanlon predictably used his casting vote for an all-out stoppage.

Mr John Boyd, the leading moderate on the executive, twice beaten by Mr Scanlon in elections for the presidency, could scarcely contain his anger at the vote. Ranged with Mr Boyd, the rubber-planting Salvation Army man, was Mr Bill John, the heavy-weight Right-winger representing Wales and the south-west who is standing for reelection and is only 900 votes ahead of his Left-wing rival in the first ballot and Mr Arthur Hearsey from the north-west.

Mr Hearsey is not as consistent a moderate as the other two, but argued that a straw poll of his area delegates conducted at the conference was strongly against such drastic industrial action. The militant camp was fascinatingly diverse. Apart from Mr Scanlon, whose politics are a byword, there was Mr Reg Birch, the volatile Maoist with his own China-included Marxist-Leninist political party; there was Mr Les Dixon, a straightforward Communist Party member, and there was Mr Len Edmondson, a stolid Labour man whose vote was unpredictable but who came down on the side of the hard-liners.

Had Mr Wright been present, Mr Scanlon would not have needed to use his casting vote. In the wake of the momentous decision to call the first all-out official strike of unlimited duration in the union's history, the executive (with the exception of Mr Boyd) went off to see Mr Foot at the Commons, where they stayed for most of the evening.

They knew of the generous but anonymous benefactor when they voted to strike, and wanted the Employment Secretary to use his not inconsiderable lever-



Mr John Boyd.



Mr Reg Birch.

age to get the court to accept the money as a face-saving way out of the impasse. What transpired between the Government and the court, if anything, is unlikely to be revealed, but Sir John and his colleagues found themselves able to take the cash with the proviso that it was clear all round that the court was not surrendering any of its authority.

Sir John may not consider that his authority is impaired by yesterday's novel *deus ex machina*, but that is not how it will be told in the factories. The engineers have not lost a penny by calling an all-out strike, whereas they stood to lose £55,000 by accepting the advice of the Government to recognize the court in its last few weeks of life.

This propaganda victory is scarcely likely to be forgotten in the coming political battle between the Left and Right factions for the general secretaryship of the union. Mr Wright, the apostle of direct action, is standing against Mr Boyd, the moderate who will be painted by the militants as the man who ran away from the fight when the crunch came. It will be an interesting election, pregnant with importance for the whole Labour movement.

Another delay for pension plans

The insurance industry is still reeling from Mrs Barbara Castle's decision to scrap the State Reserve Pension Scheme and the recognition tests for occupational pension schemes which wished to be exempted from it.

The industry is extremely disquieted by the new development—which has, at a stroke, undone much of the important work of the past two years in ensuring that everyone is entitled to realistic pension benefits.

The Government's objections to the State Reserve Scheme can be encapsulated into its differential treatment for women—a sore point near to Mrs Castle's own heart—and the delayed build-up of realistic pensions for all its members.

However, was Mrs Castle wise to wipe these arrangements out of existence without providing her own immediate substitute?

Mrs Castle's own answer to this point is that the delay of two to three years before her own plans come into operation will be worth waiting for. This gives several hints as to the likely shape of the future state pension arrangements; unfortunately it is of no help at all to the private pensions sector in determining what it should be doing in the intervening years.

Obviously some form of partnership between state and private pension plans is envisaged, but in the absence of the all-important terms, the industry is hamstrung.

The political philosophy of this Government means that most combinations of options are currently open. What the industry needs to know quickly is whether or not it will be possible for private pension plans to contract out of the state scheme, and, secondly, will it be able to afford to contract out?

On the face of it, the most likely course of action would be for Mrs Castle to resuscitate the Crossman scheme, if only because this is the only way the Labour Government could realistically hope to bring its new pensions arrangements into being within the stated two to three years.

Starting from scratch all over again would require a five-year programme. On the other hand, the proposed Crossman legislation only needs taking down from the shelves, dusting and refining.

The Crossman plan was for earnings-related benefits to be financed out of earnings-related contributions. It was a pay-as-you-go type of scheme which relied for its success on the continued willingness of future generations to pay out at ever-increasing levels for the preceding generations of pensioners.

It would have taken, however, 20 years of contributions to

provide the new full earnings-related benefits—which is where the Castle plan is likely to diverge from it.

The question then becomes: how much will this cost and how will it be financed? Mrs Castle has already stated that the contributions of employers to the basic state flat rate scheme will be increased to 8.75 per cent. The employees pay 5.5 per cent and the Exchequer another 18 per cent.

This will provide by July, basic flat rate pensions of £10 and £16 a week for single persons and married couples.

Had the State Reserve Scheme come into operation it would have been financed by contributions of 1.5 per cent from employees and 2.5 per cent from employers. As a fully-funded (ie, invested) scheme taking over 20 years to mature, there would have been no need for subvention payments or increases.

Now this is all back in the melting pot. Whether Mrs Castle follows the Crossman proposals for earnings-related benefits or goes for a more egalitarian realistic flat rate pension for all, the increased cost can only be met through increased taxation and considerably higher contributions from the employer.

At the moment, employers with an occupational pension scheme are paying around 7.5 per cent of their payroll towards it. The Crossman scheme permitted some form of contracting out which made it just economically feasible for the employer to shoulder the costs of the earnings-related state scheme (with reduced benefits) as well as provide an occupational scheme.

Unless similar provisions for contracting out are built into the Castle plan—and this is by no means a foregone conclusion—the cost of providing occupational pension schemes for topping-up purposes only could well be prohibitive.

However, there has been a dramatic shift in pension awareness, thanks to the Social Security Act, among employees and trade unions.

It is unlikely that having had the first taste of the occupational pensions scheme cherry, they will be prepared to settle for reduced occupational benefits. And certainly about two-thirds of the country's 100,000 or more pension schemes which have been amended or introduced to meet the Social Security Act's requirements will be implemented in their new form.

For the rest, unfortunately, it will be back to the drawing board and one must assume that without compulsion many smaller companies will opt out of this responsibility for their workforces.

Margaret Stone

Simon Engineering's upward trend continues in 1973

	1973 £000	1972 £000	1971 £000
Profit before Tax	4,352	3,949	2,639
Profit after Tax	2,535	2,509	1,404
Profit for appropriation	2,301	1,337	488
Earnings per Ordinary Share	13.6p	13.4p	6.4p
Dividends: Gross equivalent per Ordinary Share	7.9p	7.5p	7.5p

Points from the Statement by Mr. L. Brook, the Chairman.

1973 RESULTS. Orders received during the year at £124 million were substantially higher than the previous best figure of £105 million in 1972. Turnover at £118 million was also a record.

MANUFACTURE OF SPECIALISED MACHINERY. Many of the manufacturing companies had an excellent year and several achieved outstanding order intakes.

PROCESS PLANT CONTRACTING. The contracting companies are now concentrating on a management fee and reimbursable cost basis for major contracts whenever possible. Work arising from North Sea oil development is likely to increase.

In building and civil engineering (Simonbuild) the outlook for 1974 seems good.

INDUSTRIAL SERVICES. Further expansion took place in the oil storage companies and in our merchanting business, which covers a wide range of chemicals, plastics and coal derivatives. The outlook for 1974 is encouraging. Substantially improved results in Systems Programming reflect better UK trading conditions and increased sales in the major European markets. The present order book provides a promising basis for 1974.

OVERSEAS. The overseas companies had a good year and the outlook for the current year is also good. Total overseas business shows an increase of 41%.

PROSPECTS. The Group entered 1974 confident that it would continue to make further progress, with a well balanced and record order book. A further improvement in the results was expected in 1974 but the prolonged short-time working early in the year has had some adverse effect. Nevertheless the Board is hopeful that much of the lost ground will be recovered.

SIMON ENGINEERING

Process plant contracting; manufacture of specialised machinery; industrial services.

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from the Secretary,
Simon Engineering Limited, Cheadle Heath, Stockport, Cheshire SK3 0RT.

Business Diary: Major challenge for Monti

Ilmo Monti, the controversial Italian industrialist, is being challenged in the management of his oil refining empire by an identified group linked to the Banca d'Italia. His opponents mustered 4,628,847 votes against 7,370,920 with which the 73 accounts were approved at a lively meeting in Milan yesterday of the holding company, of which he is managing director.

Monti, known in Britain for application to build an oil refining complex at Hunterston in the Clyde, is also Italy's leading sugar industrialist and prominent newspaper owner. He began his career before a war, when he was friendly with Benito Mussolini, secretary of the Fascist party. His name has been involved in Parliament's investigations of the oil industry and in sugar price fixing proceedings by the European Economic Commission.

At the Sarom meeting, shareholders asked critical questions about the composition of the reserves, about the valuation of mining and distribution subsidiaries, and about the purchase of a holding in Montedison, the chemical and fibres group.

They were told that the distribution subsidiary Sarom Distribuzione had been taken over by Italian Petroleum. Italian, which Monti bought a year ago on BP, Sarom reported for 1973 a net profit of \$80 million (£55.3 million), little changed from the \$58 million lire profit in 1972.

The opposition showed that, though unable to oust Monti, the majority holding, a very small possession of about one-third of the company's equity, built



Monti's Nishida yesterday: home truths from Japan.

in a good position to exploit the market.

With the Japanese domestic car market stagnating, Honda is hoping to boost exports to Europe from 9,100 cars last year to 17,000 this year. Total motor cycle exports are expected to rise from 1.2m machines last year to 1.4m, 20 per cent of them going to Europe.

Nishida had few good words for motor manufacturers in America. "The United States is bringing us all to a state of near catastrophe," he said, "with their insistence on frequent model changes, on more luxurious and bigger capacity cars."

And his message to British car makers may bring a very smile to the faces of Lord Stokes and others who have pressed the

Japanese to allow greater imports of foreign cars. "Why don't you have more drive?" he asked. "A lot of Japanese would like to buy a European car, but they are so difficult to get, and the prices are so expensive as in Europe."

Honda has recently begun to import to Japan British-made Raleigh bicycles at the rate of 20,000 a year, and had one of the first, Nishida said.

Still ahead

If Jacques Borel fails to take the City by storm when his shares are introduced to the Stock Exchange, possibly next month, it will not be for want of style. He demonstrated it to effect in Paris on Tuesday.

Business Diary went along to the 50-storey Tour Maine-Montparnasse in the Avenue du Maine where Borel was giving his lavish annual presentation to an international bevy of bankers, stockbrokers and institutional investors.

The same day, Le Figaro's Alain Vernay had speculated that the American conglomerate W. R. Grace was disposing of its £50m (60 per cent) stake in Jacques Borel International, the sort of story that might well have had the Borel share price plunging—had the Paris Bourse not been on strike.

Borel flew in Peter Grace and produced him at the crucial moment when hostile questioning began. Grace declared in convincing tones (if not altogether convincing French): "C'est une pure farce" and then Borel rounded on his questioners telling them that such a major disposal was unthinkable anyway.

This sort of impresario per-

formance is typical of the volatile Borel.

For millions of Frenchmen, the 47-year-old Norman is "le symbole de l'aut-cuisine", the "bummer connoisseur" and even "public enemy number one". His cardinal sin has been to introduce steak and chips to French motorway catering and even the Wimpy to the Champs-Élysées.

But his financial record is impressive. Once a computer salesman (in Vietnam) with IBM, Borel opened his first restaurant in Paris in 1957 and now has over 700 hotels and restaurants throughout Europe. His is the biggest motorway catering group on the Continent.

He obviously has takeover ambitions in Britain—hence one of the reasons for the London share quote. Selling stock is "just like selling detergent", says Borel dismissively, although he will need every ounce of charisma to persuade Anglo-Saxon investment analysts to put away their slide rules and forget about an astronomical p/e ratio which means that his £1,070 shares are effectively around ten times more expensive than those of his arch rival, Sir Charles Forte's Trust Houses Forte group.

In a new twist to the coal-to-Newcastle tale, a Harrogate company, Dalessandro, has broken into the Norwegian sauna market. It has just exported its first sauna cabin and expects to sell 20 more before the end of the year. The company imports timber from Scandinavia and stoves from Finland to make its product. Stephen Phillips, the managing director, said: "Our saunas were originally set up in Europe, but we may have to rethink now because of the Norwegian orders."

1974

National Consolidated Limited.
 Kent House, Station Road,
 Sturford, Kent.
 NN23 1QB
 4 May, 1974.

Bank Base Rates

Barclays Bank	12 1/2%
BNFC	13%
Hill Samuel	13 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co.	13 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	13 1/2%
Midland Bank	13 1/2%
Nat Westminster	13 1/2%
Shenley Trust	13 1/2%
20th Cent Bank	13 1/2%
G. T. Whyte	13 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	13 1/2%

* Members of Accepting House Committee.
* Demand deposits 12% £10,000 and over.
* 7 day deposits in excess of £25,000 11 1/2%.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Reports

Basic strength at Simon Eng

The steps taken by Simon Engineering over the last two years to streamline its business, raise efficiency, reduce overheads and cut out unprofitable operations are now beginning to have a material effect on profits, Mr Leo Brook writes in his review.

Last year's improvement in orders, turnover and profits to

record levels was mainly attributable to improving competitiveness in the mainstream of the company's business and there is a steady expansion of the market position in western Europe and North America.

The chairman says the wide spread of interest, while underlying strength, short-term working had an adverse effect, but it is hoped to recover much of the lost ground.

Ready Mixed Concrete

After two successive years of rapid expansion, Ready Mixed Concrete is expecting 1974 to be a year of consolidation and selective expansion. However, Mr J.

THOMSON T-LINE CARAVANS

All companies busy, with exception of touring caravan manufacture which is at 50 per cent normal production from lack of demand, says Mr David Thomson.

CADBURY SCHWEPES

Extent to which company is expanding its scope outside cold economic climate of Britain is brought out in annual report. Total expenditure commitments jumped from £18.6m in 1972 to £35.5m last year.

ERNEST IRELAND

Order books are healthy and considerable improvement in profits expected this year.

BENTALLS

Budget imposed further burdens on company, but Mr L. Rowan Bentall satisfied action has been taken to ensure continued profits.

CROSSLEY BUILDING PRODUCTS

Although reporting 42 per cent slump in mid-March profits to £225,000, chairman said company suffered rather less from three-day week than at one time seemed likely.

Camden, makes it clear in his annual statement that a number of question marks still surround the two biggest profit earning areas of Britain and West Germany.

W.H. Smith

W. H. Smith would have been forecasting a year of improved profits in normal conditions, Mr C. H. W. Troughton says in the annual report. The group has a strong financial position and imagination, but is surrounded by uncertainty over government intentions toward non-food retailers and their gross margins. He declines to comment on the prospect at this stage.

CHANCERY CONSOLIDATED

Brigadier Lord Epton Scott forecasts substantial increase in earnings a share, and in their quality, this year.

MARSHALL'S UNIVERSAL

Turnover has risen from £16.1m to £20m for 1973, while taxable profits rose £265,000 to a record £1.3m. Dividend is 3.2p against 7.8p.

SPRAX-SARCO

Chairman told meeting that profits in January and February were inevitably lower. Still feeling inability of some suppliers to overcome problems left by three-day week.

BUSINESS COMPUTERS

Kammerer Dohren, German company which has 40 per cent, is providing further "substantial" facilities in view of this and order book company is well placed.

HENRY SYKES

Pre-tax profits for 1973 of this subsidiary of Sykes Lacy-Holbert were record at £44,000 (£308,000). Improvement result of substantial reorganisation and high level of pump hire business.

Latest dividends

Company	Ord	Div	Year	Div	Year	Prev
Allied Irish Banks (25p) Fin	3.37	3.37	27/6	5.75	5.0	
Avery's (25p) Fin	2.47	1.94	11/6	5.82	4.19	
British Overseas Airways (20p) Fin	4.02	3.75	5/7	5.44	5.25	
British Overseas Airways (20p) Fin	1.10	0.84		2.10		
Brit-Bornes Pet (10p) Fin	4.5	4.2	4/7	6.82	6.5	
S. Casket (10p) Fin	0.93	0.88	28/6	1.54	1.57	
S. Casket (10p) Fin	0.93	0.88	28/6	1.54	1.57	
CLP Int (25p) Fin	0.52	0.5	1/6	1.44	0.5	
Copied (10p) Fin	1.86	1.60		2.72	2.61	
Derwent Shipping (50p) Fin	6.51	6.25	11/7	10.26	10.0	
Derwent Shipping (50p) Fin	6.51	6.25	11/7	10.26	10.0	
Dutton Forshaw (25p) Fin	2.0	2.0	28/6	3.62	3.97	
East & West Ind (10p) Fin	0.45	0.75		1.74	1.2	
Fred W. Evans (10p) Fin	0.86	0.82	21/8	1.57		
General Motors (25p) Fin	4.35	4.32	1/6	5.14	4.40	
General Motors (25p) Fin	4.35	4.32	1/6	5.14	4.40	
J. H. P. (10p) Fin	1.0	1.0	21/6	1.6		
Huntington (10p) Fin	6.87	6.55	4/7	12.12	11.55	
Lisbon Electric (25p) Fin	3.12	3.12	1/7	3.12	3.0	
Lisbon Electric (25p) Fin	3.12	3.12	1/7	3.12	3.0	
London Trust (25p) Fin	6.62	5.87	18/6	9.12	8.37	
Wm. Matheson (25p) Fin	1.24	1.13		2.38	2.13	
Marshall's Universal (25p) Fin	4.35	4.32	1/6	5.14	4.40	
N.M.C. Int (25p) Fin	1.95	1.87	12/7	1.95	1.87	
N.M.C. Int (25p) Fin	1.95	1.87	12/7	1.95	1.87	
Nth. Amer. Trst (25p) Fin	1.05	1.0	1/7	3.0		
Nth. Amer. Trst (25p) Fin	1.05	1.0	1/7	3.0		
Nth. Amer. Trst (25p) Fin	1.05	1.0	1/7	3.0		
Pyramit Group (10p) Fin	1.93	1.87	5/7	2.73	2.6	
Pyramit Group (10p) Fin	1.93	1.87	5/7	2.73	2.6	
S. Simpson (25p) Fin	1.95	1.87	5/7	2.73	2.6	
S. Simpson (25p) Fin	1.95	1.87	5/7	2.73	2.6	
York-Kensington (25p) Fin	2.62	2.6	2/6	2.6	2.1	
York-Kensington (25p) Fin	2.62	2.6	2/6	2.6	2.1	
Wholesale (25p) Fin	2.48	2.5		5.62		

† Adjusted for scrip. ‡ For 9 months. § Cents a share. ¶ For 16 months. ** As forecast for 14 months.

Foreign Exchange

Gold falls another \$3.25 an ounce

The dollar resumed its fall on European currency markets yesterday, while the mark continued its advance pulling up other currencies. In the gold market, gold fell another \$3.25 an ounce.

The Times Share Indices

Index	Div	Yield	Index	Div	Yield
100	100	100	100	100	100

Commodities

New pricing by Copper Range

Copper Range, the United States producer, is to base its prices for domestic sales on New York Copper Exchange prices.

Discount market quiet

It was a quiet day in the London discount market, with little activity in the market.

Eurosyndicat

The Eurosyndicat index of European share prices was put provisionally at 133.08 on May 7 against 134.34 a week earlier.

Recent issues

Recent issues of shares and bonds are listed below.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds are listed below.

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Money Market Rates

Bank of England (Official) Rates

Overnight: 10 1/2% (10 1/2%)

Prime Bank Bill (28 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (90 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (180 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (360 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (540 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (720 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (900 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (1080 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (1260 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (1440 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (1620 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (1800 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (1980 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (2160 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (2340 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (2520 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (2700 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (2880 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (3060 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (3240 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (3420 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (3600 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (3780 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (3960 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (4140 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (4320 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (4500 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (4680 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (4860 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (5040 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (5220 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (5400 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (5580 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (5760 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (5940 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (6120 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (6300 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (6480 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (6660 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (6840 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (7020 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (7200 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (7380 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (7560 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (7740 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (7920 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (8100 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (8280 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (8460 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (8640 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (8820 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (9000 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (9180 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (9360 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (9540 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (9720 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (9900 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (10080 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (10260 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (10440 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (10620 days): 10 1/2%

Prime Bank Bill (10800 days): 10 1/2%

6 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

**SITES & SERVICES
City of SALMON**

Get the facts about
Cwmbran
Garden City Wales

For information about industrial opportunities at Cwmbran visit our website: www.cwmbran.gov.uk
or: P. Hendry, M.B.E., M.C. General Manager,
Cwmbran Development Corporation,
Dare Avenue, Town Centre, Cwmbran,
Monmouthshire NP23 7XL. Tel: Cwmbran 87777.

M40 FROM LONDON-MS W50 FROM BIRMINGHAM & THE MIDLANDS

[illegible]

Women's Appointments also on pages 36 and 37

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARY TO FINANCIAL CONTROLLER AMERICAN COMPANY

Occidental of Britain is an oil company enjoying the benefits of the North Sea Oil discoveries. An exciting company at an exciting time. But they still preserve a friendly, easygoing atmosphere, and believe in the individuality of each person working for them. Their offices in Grosvenor Place are both modern and comfortable.

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VALERIE KERR
OCCIDENTAL OF BRITAIN, INC.
4 GROSVENOR PLACE, LONDON SW1X 7HF

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The Chairman of a substantial public company would like to hear from lady graduates interested in a career as his P.A. (leaving 24.30 applicants must have a minimum of 2 years' experience, be able to drive a car, and work from a central London office). The position is varied, independent, and requires a person who is confident, resourceful, and energetic. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, and will be expected to handle a wide range of correspondence, and to act as a liaison between the Chairman and the Board. The job will appeal particularly to ambitious career-oriented young ladies able to justify a salary of £2,000.

Reply with brief written details to:
Worldwide Business Centres,
110 Strand, London, WC2, quoting ref: P.A.L.G.

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Around £2000 p.a.

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Please contact JILL POTTER
GRUSEWOLD AND DENNEY
8 SHEPHERD WALK, N1
01-531 0001

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Managing Director of luxury Car Showroom needs a super Personal Assistant/Secretary. You will have your own office, and will need initiative and organising ability as your boss will often be away. Short-hand not necessary. To £2,000 at 21+.

Please Miss Bryanton, 493 700/79.

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Public Relations Manager of a financially sound company is looking for a competent Secretary to work with him in his London office. Good salary and 25 days holiday.

Please ring 486 1277

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Our client is the Financial Director of a major international company. In return for proven P.A. experience at Director level, we can offer involvement and a real challenge to a girl with initiative and ambition.

Rice and Dunn on 01-432 3615

GRADUATE GIRLS

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SECRETARY/P.A. required to work on own initiative with senior executives in all departments including finance, personnel, and social functions. Good salary and 25 days holiday.

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE needs a bright girl to assist the Managing Director in his London office. Good salary and 25 days holiday.

TEMPS TAKE MY WORD—British girl to assist him in his small office. Good salary and 25 days holiday.

P.A./SECRETARY — W.I. Design Group 2-places, well educated, to work on own initiative. £1,500 p.a. plus lunch vouchers. — 626 1923.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS — A controller of most country houses. A controller of most country houses. A controller of most country houses.

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Are you interested in Current Affairs?

If you are, and you can type, take shorthand, and organise: then we have an exciting opportunity for you in our London newsroom. We require a News Assistant to assist the Chief News Editor in maintaining the efficient running of the daily news service. Salary: £1,650 per annum. Hours: 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Offices situated near Central and Bakerloo tube lines, and bus routes.

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British Light Aviation Centre

require a MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY. Involves personal contact with members. Ability to deal with correspondence, time and keep records. £15 p.w. Good salary. Mrs L.V. Condon, Mrs Lord, 01-225 6782.

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to work for head of creative design of a fashion house company in W.1. and liaise with photographers and models. £1,800 gross per month. Please phone 01-589 7007 but do not speak.

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P.A./SECRETARY for his expanding property business. Must be a first-class English Mother-Tongue. Excellent salary and 25 days holiday.

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with knowledge of German wanted for top-level TV company. Excellent salary and 25 days holiday.

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PERSONAL PRIVATE SECRETARY

to assist the Managing Director of a major international company. In return for proven P.A. experience at Director level, we can offer involvement and a real challenge to a girl with initiative and ambition.

SECRETARY TO ADMIN. EXP. (TYPE, Pica, etc.) Very little hard work. Hours and salary negotiable. Call Mrs G. 01-432 3615

EXPERIENCED SHORTHAND TYPIST

for Embassy Office in the City. Well equipped, good command room. £2,000 p.a. plus 25 days holiday. Call Mrs G. 01-432 3615

BRILLIANT, BUT UNBESIDESIDE

Harley St. surgeon requires secretary. Must be able to take dictation, and to handle a wide range of correspondence. Excellent salary and 25 days holiday.

AUDIO REC. for Ad. Agent. Job. £2,000 p.a. plus 25 days holiday. Call Mrs G. 01-432 3615

GENERAL

CATALOGUE ASSISTANT for well-known record co. in West End. To assist with cataloguing, proof-reading, and record-keeping. Excellent salary and 25 days holiday.

WANTED—Young assistant for Mr. L. E. Agents. Intelligent, capable of handling a wide range of correspondence. Excellent salary and 25 days holiday.

JUNIOR GIRL FRIDAY

Very easy job for young Jewellery company. W.C.I. Must type, own office. £1,500 p.a. plus 25 days holiday. Call Mrs G. 01-432 3615

GIRL FRIDAY Kensington Sports Car

Drive, must be able to type and drive. £1,500 p.a. Tel: 937 6616.

WIFE for Clinic, W.I. Mon-Fri

£1,500 p.a. — 503 9349.

WOMEN'S APPOINTMENTS GENERAL

A stimulating and demanding new appointment

FEMALE PERSONNEL MANAGER

CITY

LONG ESTABLISHED BUT PROGRESSIVE LEGAL FIRM

Applications are invited from women aged 28-40 with a minimum of two years' sound experience in the recruitment of female personnel. Reporting will be to the Administration Partner. The successful candidate's responsibilities will cover the personnel function as it relates to clerical staff. Formal personnel qualifications are not essential, though a sound secretarial background is. Candidates must have an alert and enquiring mind and be able to liaise effectively at all levels. Equally they must be capable of establishing good relations with colleagues and other sources of recruitment. Initial salary negotiable to £3,750, reviewed six monthly, four weeks' annual holiday, luncheon vouchers. Applications in strict confidence under reference FPM 3492/TT to The Managing Director:

CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON ASSOCIATES (Management Recruitment Consultants) LIMITED, 35 NEW BROAD ST., LONDON EC2M 1NH. Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. Telex 887374.

GOOD WITH PEOPLE?

Businessmen from all over the world are seeking office staff. We are now setting up a new complex in the City near Mansion House. We are looking for a reliable, mature girl looking for a reliable, mature girl looking for a reliable, mature girl.

Initially the salary will be £2,000 p.a. but there are excellent prospects for those who show initiative. Ability with figures and typing necessary but no shorthand.

Telephone 584 8101, ext. 42.

RECEPTION/OFFICE DUTIES

SOUTH AUDLEY STREET, W.1

A very pleasant job opportunity is open to someone, probably in their 40s, who will undertake reception, some typing (no shorthand), and Telex and Xerox operating in a new suite of offices, from 9 am-5.30 pm, on Mondays to Fridays.

She will join the small permanent team being set up in the General Motors Overseas Corporation for Council work connected with Europe, and she will find both the work and the people unusually interesting. A very good salary will be offered to the right person.

Please write or telephone
Hugh M. Morris, GENERAL MOTORS LTD.
STAG LANE, LONDON, NW9
Tel: 01-205 0616

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

We require a second young lady for our Training Department to be responsible for the preparation and co-ordination of training course material and act as Course Secretary on residential courses.

The post involves a variety of work and will be of interest to those with experience of typing who enjoy meeting people and are willing to accept responsibility.

A competitive salary will be paid as well as Luncheon Vouchers and three weeks' holiday.

Reply in confidence to J. C. PERCIVAL, Training Manager, Post Merwick Mitchell & Co., Annual House, Basinghall Ave., London, EC4A 3DU

TEACHER—LIBERIA

Elderly lady, daughter, age-in-law both doctors. Need of some living-in nursing assistance. Good salary and other help already employed.

For more details, please write to: 1720 for a month plus all travelling expenses. 2 hours a week at local clinic. Good village outside Richmond, beautiful country. Starting as soon as possible.

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RECEPTIONIST

Attractive, well spoken young lady with pleasant personality required for reception duties in a busy office. Good salary and 25 days holiday.

Salary to £1,700 plus L.V.'s. Phone 01-528 682.

PUBLISHERS IN CHICHESTER

need cheerful and articulate recent graduate with good command of English to work on their Sales side. Write with brief details to James Spurr, John Wiley & Sons, Baffins Lane, Chichester, Sussex.

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MATRON/ADMINISTRATOR

required for North London Clinic. Excellent salary and 25 days holiday. Phone 01-528 682.

STATISTICIAN

University of London. The Statistical Section of the University of London is looking for a young lady to assist with the day-to-day running of the office. Good salary and 25 days holiday.

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ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

1971 ROLLS-ROYCE CORNICHE 2-door saloon. Sage green with dark green leather upholstery. 1200 cc. engine. 1200 cc. engine. 1200 cc. engine.

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